THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

ISA TEXAS

In the Shade

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Speakers, Networking & Food: All a Hit at Texas Tree Conference

This year's Texas Tree Conference was held in a "new" city, College Station, which seemed to be a popular choice with most members. Attendence fell off slightly from the previous year, probably due to the number of ISAT members working on Hurricane Ike recovery efforts. (Ike hit the week before the conference.) Total attendance was 210 people, plus those that attended the Tree Academies and Tree School.

Some results from the attendee survey: On the **Academies**, Biomechanics with Dr. Kane was rated very high. On the **Sessions**, everyone responded favorably to all of Dr. Percival's sessions. In addition, the Ammerman communications workshop, Mark Peterson's water conservation talk and Chris Luley's decay talk were all hits. On **Events/Hospitality**, the top three were registration, the municipal breakfast, and the Hilton.

On the evaluation/comments sheets, attendees said they liked the food and location, the quality of the speakers, the variety of topics, networking and meeting new people, the hotel and facilities, the Aggie Wranglers and the pre-conference Academy.

The following suggestions were made for things we need to improve: Attendees said they said missed the ISA bookstore and would like to see more exhibitors, more of a push for member involvement, more speakers with shorter sessions, and outlines or notes for each speaker.

Topics suggested for next year include: drought, roots below the ground, appraisal, leadership and communications, pest/tree diseases, working with advocacy groups, lab with fungi (as an academy), municipal planting plans, diagnostic instruments, storms, Dr. Arnold for three hours, and more arboriculture.

Mark your calendar now for next year's conference. We'll be back in Round Rock Sept 30 – Oct 2, 2009. *–John Giedraitis and Courtney Blevins*

President's Message *by John Giedraitis*

I admit it; I am a sucker for pithy sayings like this one: "Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain"

Given our world economy lately, this is one piece of advice that I am trying to work into my everyday life. Not the dancing in the rain part (just ask my wife Cindy – I have two left feet) but the great American idea that you can convert adversity into advantage. Over the years I have read and listened to many biographies and personal success books, tapes, CDs and now MP3s and I have learned from the masters about how to see this bigger view of the world.

The granddaddy of this American personal success literature is Napoleon Hill. Born in a two-room cabin in 1883, in 1908 Andrew Carnegie commissioned him to interview 500 successful people to find out the formula for success. It took him twenty years to interview leaders such as Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Joseph Stalin, Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt. To date, his books based on these findings about success are among the best-selling of all time.

He looked at the power of what you believe and how those beliefs lead to your personal success. His most famous saying is, "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve." In his timeless Science of Personal Achievement, Hill lists the seventeen simple principles of success. Two that I think apply to our Texas ISA Chapter are 1. "Have a Definite Purpose" and 16. "Cooperation."

We have a Definite Purpose in the Texas Chapter. **Our mission is to improve the practice of professional arboriculture through science, education and public awareness.**

Our objectives are:

- To provide training, certification, and continuing education of tree care professionals.
- Provide forums to disseminate current scientific tree care information.
- To stimulate a greater appreciation of proper tree care.
- To foster tree care research.

And we have Cooperation. Hill defined cooperation as "Harmony based on a definite motive." He said that you have to be willing to cooperate and coordinate your efforts to achieve a specific objective. In other words, the more you give, the more you get. We have over a dozen committees in ISAT. I invite you to join one that seems interesting to you. They include: Texas Tree Conference, Texas Tree Climbing Championship, Arbor Day, Certification, Membership, Awards, Publicity, Scholarships, Research and Educational Services. Our Educational Services committee is divided into five working groups based on interests: Certified Arborist, Master Arborist, Municipal Specialist, Utility Specialist and Certified Tree Worker. These committees are listed on our website at **www.ISATexas.com**.

As Hill wrote, 98% of people have no firm beliefs, putting true success firmly out of reach. If you believe that you can cooperate to help ISAT reach its definite purpose, send me an email at jpg@tfs.tamu.edu. I'll be happy to show you how both you and your professional group can grow and be successful together.

Science of Personal Achievement link: **http://www.nightingale.com/prod_detail~product~Science_Personal_Achievement_Napoleon_Hill.aspx**

It's B-a-a-a-ck! Arboriculture 101 with Dr. Todd Watson

Arboriculture 101 returns January 9 & 10 and January 23 & 24 at the College Station Conference Center. This well-known course is designed to provide practitioners with in-depth knowledge of how to care for urban trees. The original intent of the course was to assist those interested in testing for the ISA Certified Arborist Exam. However, the course is also invaluable for professionals who would like to take a university style arboriculture course to learn more about caring for urban trees.

Those who would benefit from the course include: architects, engineers and developers who design and build structures around trees; landscape architects; landscape managers; Certified Landscape Professionals; Certified Arborists; Licensed Pesticide Applicators; professionals seeking to learn the latest recommendations for tree care; or anyone with an interest in urban trees.

Some participants may only want to attend one or two days instead of the entire workshop to obtain continuing education credits or additional training in specific areas. Attendees who participate in the entire 4-day short course will receive certificates of completion. Each day is approved for 7.5 CEUs for ISA Certified Arborists and 8 CEUs for TNLA Certified Professionals.

Attendees are NOT automatically registered for the ISA Certified Arborist (CA) Exam.

Go to **http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Arb101.htm** or contact Dr. Watson at 979-218-0783 for more information.

Tree Worker Workshop Rescheduled to January

Thanks to Hurricane Ike, the ISA Tree Worker Specialist Certification workshop originally set for November 8 & 9 in Ft. Worth's Trinity Park has had to be rescheduled. As the newsletter went to press, the workshop was going to be held sometime in January in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Keep checking for updates at **www.isatexas.com** or call Nevic Donnelly at 512-922-7058.

New ISA Exam Fees

The ISA Certification Department has increased exam application fees. The chart below lists the new fees:

	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Certfied Arborist	$150.00	$250.00
Tree Worker	$115.00	$165.00
Utility & Municipal		
0-12 mo.	$ 55.00	$185.00
13-24 mo.	$ 75.00	$205.00
25-36 mo.	$100.00	$230.00
BCMA	$350.00	$550.00 (no change)

All Retakes increased by $10 making them $75.

The upcoming Aerial Lift credential will be the same as the Tree Worker fees.

TVMA Annual Conference

The Texas Vegetation Management Association just held their 17th annual conference in San Antonio October 6-8 and was attended by close to 200 members from across Texas and adjoining states.

The speaker and presentation quality were truly exceptional this year, including: "TDA Laws and Regulation Update," "2009 EPA Container Regulations," "Communicating With Difficult People," "Hurricane Effects on Coastal Vegetation," "Introduction to Invasive Species," "Integrated Pest Management," "The Texas Invasives Council," "Dealing With Pesticide Spills" and a five-staged outdoor exhibit presentation.

Interest was shown in exploring the possibility of future joint conferences with ISAT as in past decades.

–James Koenig

Cool Views of Leaf Cutter Ants

Visitors to one of the world's premier computer graphics conferences saw pioneering work developed at the Texas A&M Department of Visualization.

"Atta Texana Leafcutting Ant Colony: a View Underground," created by visualization professors Carol LaFayette and Fred Parke, put viewers at SIGGRAPH 2008 in Los Angeles inside an immersive, three-dimensional representation of an ant colony.

Ground-penetrating radar was used to nondestructively map the tunnels and chambers of the huge ant colony, and the results were translated into a 3-D model that can be viewed on an interactive visualization system.Visit the A&M visualization lab at : **http://www-viz.tamu.edu/faculty/lurleen/main/attatunnel/**

Climbing Lines *by Guy LeBlanc*

Giving a Tree Fair Warning

The pruning of young trees is one of the most important jobs we perform as arborists. Establishing ideal branch structure when a tree is young greatly reduces the probability of branch failures in the future. Yet as with older trees, too much is too often removed from saplings in the name of "tree care." Homeowners often strip all the lower branches from these babes in hopes of making their bushy young charge look "more like a tree," but ignorant "professionals" are just as guilty.

Along with the loss of photosynthetic capacity that occurs with any over-pruning, another significant problem with this stripping is that it reduces the trunk's capacity for increasing in diameter because one of the stimuli for this girth is the presence of these small branches along a sapling's trunk. (Another stimulus is movement, which is why staking should be done only when absolutely necessary.) This is also true for individual branches when they are stripped. When done to an entire tree, this is sometimes referred to as "lion-tailing," or, my personal favorite, "tree sculpting," and based on what I see daily, I think it is still a common practice.

We are often called upon to perform "structural" pruning on a young tree several years after it ideally should have been done. This sometimes leads to hard choices involving wounds that are very large, loss of large amounts of foliage, and/or large co-dominant stem removal. One technique that I have used for many years in these situations is currently referred to as "subordination".

Subordination is a technique whereby a branch that is competing with the desired dominant leader is cut back (subordinated) so that it will not assume dominance. It is preferable to maintain a single dominant leader while a tree is young and relatively small, even if its genetic inclination will eventually lead to a decurrent growth form (R. Harris), if for no other reason than to not have branching below six feet on a mature, large shade tree.

If the branch in question is fairly close in size to the leader, then it is most likely actually a co-dominant stem, not a branch, and therefore a branch collar is not present (see Shigo 101). Because of this lack of a branch collar, co-dominant stem removal cuts are at least theoretically more prone to decay. One theory is that if a co-dominant stem is removed in stages, over a period of a few years, the final wound will be less susceptible to decay, because the tree is being given a "message" that the stem being cut is weakening, and the tree will put more growth energy into the other stem, and begin to internally "shut down" the

Continued on next page

stem being cut. To accomplish this, the co-dominant stem is shortened via one or two reduction cuts made one or two years apart before it is removed completely. I personally believe this is true, and have used the technique to remove co-dominant stems and even large branches that I thought were too big to remove in one season.

It is recommended that when performing reduction cuts (removing the terminal end of a branch as opposed to cutting an entire branch back to its union) no more than 25% of the total branch be removed, and that it be cut back to a lateral that is at least one third the diameter of what it being removed. When the intention is to eventually remove the entire branch (or stem) these guidelines are not as critical. **The accompanying three photos** of a young Chinese elm show a low branch that should have been removed years ago. I have reduced the branch (and also "thinned" it), and will completely remove it next year.

While I have no proof that this technique is superior to simply completely removing an undesired branch or co-dominant stem in one season, it seems logical to me. If nothing else, you are reducing the amount of foliage you are removing at one time. One prominent researcher who has advocated this approach is Bruce Fraedrich of Bartlett Tree Experts. Check it out.

The author has owned and operated Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin, TX for over 25 years, and is also a TCIA Certified Treecare Safety Professional. He is available for worker training courses and may be reached at 512-301-8700.

Casualty Loss Appraisal *by G.P. David, RCA/BCMA*

With all the tree damage from Ike, many arborists will be receiving requests for IRS casualty loss appraisals. While these types of appraisals were common in the past, Uncle Sam has recently put the brakes on this type of work.

For a homeowner to take a casualty loss deduction for tree damage, the IRS specifically wants to know the difference between the fair market value (FMV) of the real estate before the storm and the FMV of the real estate following the storm.

One IRS disaster-related FAQ webpage specifically discusses tree damage during a hurricane. The website states, "**The value of the damage to the tree as determined by an arborist** does not qualify as a measure of the casualty loss because it does not reflect the decrease in the fair market value of the residential property as a whole, including the residence, land, and improvements. The taxpayer may obtain an appraisal of the entire property to determine any decrease in value resulting from the loss the tree." (See: **www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=171138,00.html**)

The IRS does not accept CTLA tree-appraisal methods for casualty losses, not even the cost-of-cure approach. Since homeowners *are* allowed to deduct the cost to replace trees and landscaping damaged by a storm, we might be led to believe that the cost-of-cure approach would be appropriate – and it might be, except for the fact that the IRS requires landowners to actually *have the work done* and to be able to *produce the receipts* – so a cost-of-cure based appraisal is inappropriate and unnecessary.

Homeowners are allowed to deduct tree removal and pruning costs associated with storm damage, but, here again, they must actually have the work done and be able to show the receipts, if audited. See IRS *Publication 547, Casualties, Disasters, and Thefts*, for more information.

WEB WORM

http://news.smh.com.au/national/worlds-tallest-hardwood-tree-in-tas-20081010-4y6r.html
Tallest hardwood tree in the world is in Tasmania

http://www.gianttrees.com.au/
Giant trees in Tasmania

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/09/080922095435.htm
Trees used as sensors.

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/08/080820163010.htm
Trees used to combat odors and air pollution

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/08/080818184424.htm
Fungus in longhorn beetle may lead to inexpensive biomass ethanol.

http://www.americanforests.org/
All about trees.....

http://www.greendimes.com/
Save the forests by stopping the junk mail – guarantees up to 90% of junk mailings stopped.

http://www.treecaretips.org/news/ISA_Top_Ten.htm
Top ten myths about tree care.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/howaboutthat/3081481/Soviet-tree-slogans-visible-on-Google-Earth.html
Soviet tree slogans visible from space.

http://blog.wired.com/wiredscience/2008/09/a-synthetic-tre.html
Cornell develops a synthetic tree.

http://www.newtribe.com/
Climbing gear

http://federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2008-21851_PI.pdf
OSHA's new questions for the tree industry

New Texas ISA Members

Amy Ping, Booth
Chris Doleva, Austin
Clint Pearson, Dallas
Eusebio Alvarez, Webster
Jerry De La Garza, Beeville
Laura McLarry, Wylie
Leobardo Blancas, Wylie
Leoncio Ruiz, Wylie
Lorri Dennis, Carrollton
Marvin Hickey, Crawford
Matthew Clemons, Dallas
Michael Bosco, Dallas
Neil Goss, Waco
Pam Corder, Rosser
Randall Myers, Midland

High Tech Tree News

Coming Soon: Artificial Trees That Make Energy

A company called Solar Botanic says it will introduce artificial trees that make use of renewable energy from the sun and wind. They call their technology an efficient, clean and environmentally sound means of collecting solar radiation and wind energy. For more information on the company and its Nanoleaf technology, visit: **http://www.solarbotanic.com/index.php**

Tree Power Could Save Forests From Fires

Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have tapped into the tiny electrical current carried in trees and created a company, Voltree, to capitalize on it as a power source.

"People have known about this phenomena for many years and have tried to explain it by various exotic mechanisms," said Andreas Mershin, a postdoctoral researcher at MIT who is involved in the research.

"But the cause of it is a simple pH difference between the tree and the soil," said Chris Love, a senior in chemistry at MIT and Vice President of Voltree. Working with the U.S. Forest Service, Voltree has created cheap sensors that use tree power to monitor temperature and humidity conditions inside forests. The goal is to give forest managers and firefighters better tools to predict and monitor fires. *–Eric Bland, Discovery News*
For more information, visit: **http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2008/10/01/tree-power.html**

Texas Trees Foundation, Urban Renewal & NCDC Imaging Design More Focused Tree Planting Model

Many cities across the nation have had an Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) analysis performed to answer three primary questions: How many trees does our city have? Where are those trees? And what is our available planting space?

That's step one. Step two for these cities has been to go and plant more trees in the available spaces. But what if step two could be more thorough in categorizing those planting spaces based on performance?

"Dallas Pilot: Roadmap to Tree Planting Success" through the Texas Trees Foundation, Urban Renewal, NCDC Imaging and other partners will be the first project in which planting sites will now be identified and then prioritized through models using GIS & remote sensing technologies and environmental factors. Janette Monear of the Texas Trees Foundation states that "in the past we have planted trees without considering the big picture on what planting sites are available that will provide the greatest suite of services. Results from this project will provide a strategic framework for tree planting and impact how funding is secured from policy makers."

Using a high resolution land cover data and ancillary GIS layers provided by the city, NCDC will first conduct an Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) analysis. The analysis will provide and illustrate existing, possible and potential tree canopy and planting space for individual parcels, land use (zoning) and as a whole for each of the five, 1-square-mile project areas. Portions of this model are based on tools developed by the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station & Southwest Research Station, the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Laboratory and UC-Davis.

Once the baseline data is mapped, each tree planting site will be attributed by selective criteria such as urban heat island data, land use type, watershed priority, soil classification, overhead power lines, parks and transportation corridors. This new model will allow a user to conduct different GIS queries from the interactive database so that better decisions for planting will be made. Monear adds that the model will also help to "connect the dots" for better focus on fundraising potential.

Partners include: City of Dallas, Texas Forest Service, North Central Texas Council of Governments, Urban Renewal, EPA, Houston Advanced Research Center, USDA Forest Service and UC-Davis.

Visit **http://www.ncdcimaging.com/**

2008 ISAT Awards of Excellence Pa

ISAT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE--presented at the Texas Tree Conference in Sepember-- exemplify some of the best efforts in Texas to protect and enhance the urban forest. They demonstrate outstanding creativity, leadership, individual dedication and innovative partnerships.

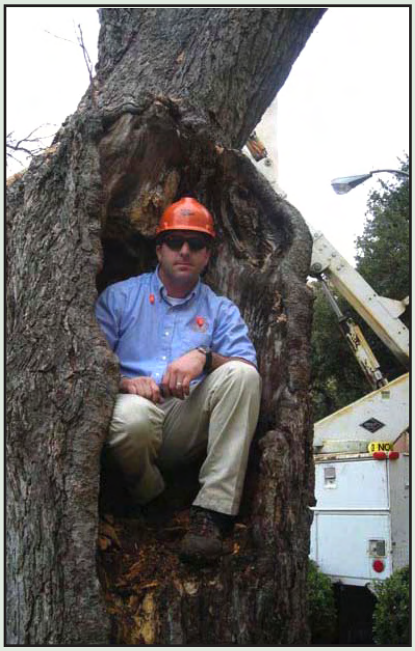
This year was the ninth time the awards ceremony was held jointly by the Texas Forest Service and the Texas Chapter ISA. Award categories include Arborist of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, Arboricultural Project of the Year and our Gold Leaf awards for landscape projects and Arbor Day celebrations.

Each award winner received a numbered, remarked and framed limited-series print of a painting of the *Las Cuevas Ebony* especially commissioned for the awards program.

Arborist of the Year

Larry Maginnis

The Arborist of the Year for 2008 is **Larry Maginnis**, Urban Forestry Program Manager for the University of Texas at Austin. The University of Texas System has just surpassed the US Navy to become the fifth largest builder in the nation. This constant expansion has the potential to jeopardize the university's trees. Through talks and outreach, Larry has greatly raised awareness of the value of trees at UT, and he has launched



a number of effective and respected programs for planting, pruning, and tree health.

Trees at the University are now included in the programming phase of each project and are addressed individually as candidates for preservation. Over the past year five large live oak trees that would normally be lost to building projects were relocated.

Thanks to a tree health program, supported by an array of new tools, if a campus expansion project or infrastructure upgrade is necessary within the critical root zone of any tree, Larry can assure the tree is in the best shape possible to endure the stressors.

Larry sits on the Committee for Tree Campus USA, a new program from National Arbor Day Foundation that sets high standards for university tree programs, and he has created a student outreach program aimed at engaging and educating UT students on the benefit and joy of planting trees.

He has also hosted and proctored the inaugural ISA Tree Worker Certification in Texas.

Lifetime Achievement Award

James B. Hull

James B. Hull is director emeritus of the Texas Forest Service. He became state forester and director of the agency

in 1996, a position he held until his retirement May 31, 2008.

Under Hull's leadership, TFS gained national prominence in wildfire protection and prevention. Early successes in the Texas Wildfire Prevention Plan, the model for other state and federal organizations, resulted in the agency being awarded the prestigious Gold Smokey in 2003.

AY TRIBUTE TO CREATIVITY & LEADERSHIP

Based on this broad experience in wildfire supporession, TFS is now established as a state and national leader in risk incident management as evidenced by its lead role in the Space Shuttle Columbia recovery effort and several hurricane recovery events.

Hull has held numerous leadership positions on forestry boards and organizations at the state, regional and national levels and has been a long-time, fervent supporter of urban forestry.

Arboricultural Project of the Year

Residential Street Tree Pruning Program by First Colony Community Association (FCCA)

First Colony Community Association (FCCA) is a 10,000 acre master planned community in Sugar Land, Texas, with approximately 600 acres of

landscaped and irrigated common areas and 72 neighborhood subdivisions.

When the City of Sugar Land began requiring street trees to be pruned with a clearance of 12' over streets and 8' over sidewalks, FCCA managers realized this would present a challenge for the nearly 35,000 residents since street trees are required in the association's deed restrictions, and it would be difficult to ensure that homeowners pruned the trees correctly.

The solution: FCCA developed a pruning service designed to be both professional and affordable to homeowners. The program has been overwhelmingly successful. Approx. 24000 street trees have been pruned correctly and according to ANSI standards, which will benefit the long term health of the tree, provide a beautiful, consistent canopy over the streets, and improve property values.

Margaret Hall Spenser, FCCA Landscape Manager and Steve Spears, FCCA Landscape Services Specialist, accepted the award.

Gold Leaf Landscape Beautification Award

West Texas Tree Planting by the Chapman Foundation

In 1996, the Chapman Foundation began annual tree planting grants to communities in West Texas. Any group can apply for $1,000 to $2,500 provided they match the funds 50:50 and guarantee they will maintain the trees for three years. (Funds are awarded only for tree purchase.)

Since 1998, the Chapman Foundation has planted thousands of trees in Amarillo, Midland, Lubbock, and Brownwood and in dozens of small communities like Ralls, Hale Center, Bovina, Olton, Sunray, Muleshoe and Happy, Texas.

These trees provide shade, reduce stormwater runoff, improve air and water quality, reduce energy consumption, enhance wildlife habitats, and just make the environment look better. "The planting of trees is an investment in out future and our children's future," said Christie Billing of the Chapman Foundation.

Brian Scott accepted the award on behalf of Christie Billing.

Gold Leaf Award for Best Arbor Day in Texas

El Paso Arbor Day 2008

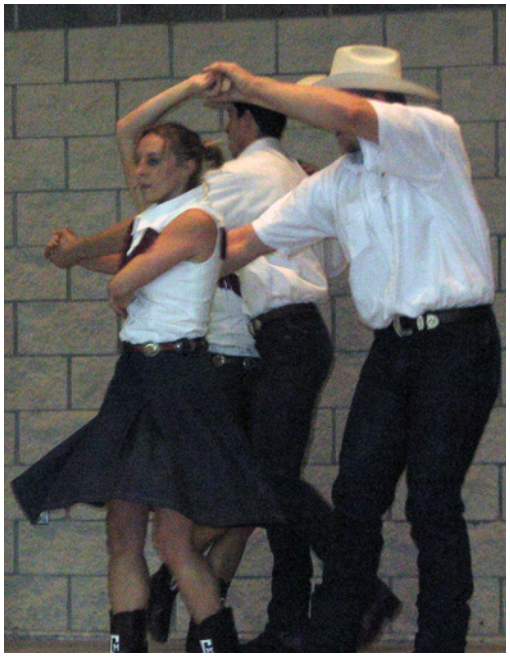
In recent years, the City of El Paso has made great gains in urban forestry. They have passed a tree ordinance, hired a urban forester and have begun systematic and scientific tree care. The 2008 Arbor Day celebration was an opportunity to take stock of these achievements and to look towards the future.

The parks department set up an event at Veterans Park and all the local dignitaries came out. The community came together to plant trees and to celebrate the benefits of trees in this desert city. The National Arbor Day Foundation presented the City of El Paso with the Tree City USA award for the first time, and statewide utility companies were on hand to receive their Tree Line USA recognition.

Photos from the Texas Tree Conference

Awards Banquet

Mike Walterscheidt, Registration



Aggie Wranglers

Aggie Social

Dr Kane & Todd Watson

More business decisions occur over lunch and dinner than at any other time, yet no MBA courses are given on the subject.

~ Peter Drucker

Mike Sultan and Paul Johnson

Sarah Brackin, Texas Hold 'Em

Nicole Vance, Nathan Lawrence, Angie Solgdinger

Henson, Hagen, Wentworth, Board Meeting

Tracking the Villains: Formosan Termites

Everyone knows about termites and I think many of you have heard about the invasive Formosan termite and the havoc it causes in the urban and structural areas.

For a little background on this pest, the Formosan termites, *Coptotermes* spp. come from China, Formosa, and Japan and have been accidentally introduced into Hawaii and the continental United States. It is thought that they were introduced into the United States through military supply crates being brought back following World War II.

In Texas they were first identified in 1956 at a shipyard in Pasadena and now there are 29 counties in Texas (Anderson, Angelina, Aransas, Bexar, Brazoria, Cameron, Chambers, Collins, Colorado, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gregg, Henderson, Hidalgo, Harris, Jefferson, Johnson, Liberty, Nacogdoches, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Rockwall, Smith, Tarrant and Travis) that have been positively identified as having an infestation of Formosan subterranean termites. The majority of the sightings are along the Gulf coast with scattered sightings inland. The sightings inland are due to the transportation of infested soils or materials (for example lumber, wood crates, or mulch).

In nature termites are beneficial, just another part of Mother Nature's recycling crew, and only when they invade our homes and structures do they become a problem. However, unlike our native termite species, Formosan termites will attack living trees, and unfortunately it looks like pecan is a preferred species. Infestation of living trees goes virtually unnoticed until high winds causes trees to fall, with the interior of the tree having an appearance as shown in the photo.

There is a lot of research into the management and detection of Formosan termites in the urban sector; however, we are not sure what will happen or what is happening in our native pecan areas. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike there may be trees down in native pecan bottoms due to termite infestations. I am asking that if anyone suspects they have native tree loss from termites to please contact me at **979- 845-6800** or by email at w-ree@tamu.edu.

–Bill Ree, Texas Pecan Pest Management Newsletter

Cool Tools *by Patrick Wentworth*
Anti-Theft GPS Locator

Tools are only useful if they are there in the morning when you go to work. We all have insurance, but does it cover enough of your equipment to replace it outright if it were stolen?

A new product on the market from Dewalt may be the added measure of security you need.

MobileLock® is an anti theft, GPS locator device with built in Sprint PCS service. Attached to any piece of equipment, it can alert you via email or telephone when a piece of equipment is being tampered with or stolen. And then, via GPS technology, it can locate the stolen property anywhere in the US.

This information passed on to the police not only will recover your lost equipment but put the thieves behind bars as well.

A little pricey, but it's a one-time cost of $500.00.

See the video at **http://www.dewalt.com/us/products/tool_detail.asp?productID=10784**.

Buy it at **http://www.brickhousesecurity.com/mobile-alarm-gpslocator.html.**

Organics versus Chemicals In Caring for Plants & Ecosystems

by Steve Houser

Are you pro organic or pro chemical? Being an arborist, naturalist and gardener, my standard answer is that I am "pro common sense and pro research." Although the media often portray organics as good and chemicals (or synthetics) as bad, the underlying facts are seldom exposed, leaving the public without a clear understanding of the issue. To tout one or the other as a panacea for all plant and ecosystem related problems ignores the sound research behind both approaches. The answer lies in current research and finding a balanced, common sense way to approach problem resolution. Just to be clear, the term "plant" includes trees as well.

Which method is best? If the problem is not a great threat to the future health or value of the plant, do not use either method. If current research shows that natural defenses exist to resolve the problem to an acceptable degree, take the holistic approach and leave it to "Mother Nature." However, Mother Nature and the organic approach cannot solve all plant or ecosystem problems (in part) because the inner-urban environment of today does not represent the natural world of the past. Poor air and water quality, as well as invasive, non-native plants, pathogens and pests (such as Chinese privet invading our natural areas, or oak wilt, a deadly pathogen) prevent Mother Nature from functioning normally in our urban areas. As a result, there is no sound research that provides organic answers to stop the spread of Chinese privet or effectively treat oak wilt symptoms as well as other difficult problems in our communities. Mother Nature cannot solve all inner urban problems on her own. The choice in many cases such as oak wilt is to stay organic and lose trees or consider chemical options.

If you choose to stick with organic methods, it is wise to use only products and techniques that are proven by scientific research regarding the full effects to the entire environment (air, water, soil, animals and humans). Unfortunately, many believe that "organic" means it is safe for humans and the environment, which is not always the case. The misuse of materials (organic or chemical) and a lack of research regarding their proper usage (especially in mixing the materials) can lead to problems in the biological balance of nature. It is impractical to think that all problems can be resolved with either approach without any negative consequences. It is also unreasonable to promote an organic material, chemical or "mixture" without solid research.

Using organic materials to improve the soil or resolve plant problems is not new science. Existing research quantifies the benefits of adding compost or humus to the soil as a way to stimulate biological activity, which improves soil and plant health. However, the full effect of multiple applications containing many materials (organic and sometimes chemical) throughout the seasons, year after year, is not always well researched or clear. As a result, the answer is to have a balanced approach to problems that can adapt to current research plus minimize the impact to our ecosystems as well as our health.

The best approach is:
1. Let nature solve it.
2. Use organic products if sound research exists.
3. Use chemicals as a last resort for only major problems.

What constitutes a "major problem" requires a value judgment by each individual and may vary from person to person as a result.

Does anyone fully understand our urban ecosystems and how they interact as well as function or should function in the future to reach our regional goals of sustainability? The answer is no! There are experts in wildlife, plants, soils, water and many others. However, I do not recall hearing of any urban ecosystem expert that claims to fully understand how our inner city ecosystems should function in relation to each other. As a result, how can the organic or chemical crowd claim that one or the other is the only answer to resolve all plant as well as ecosystem related problems?

If one approach is better for a problem, prove it with sound research or be responsible and wait for the facts before using or recommending either one. Unfortunately, a pure organic or chemical approach will not provide all the answers to the existing problems we currently face in the urban environment. A balanced, common-sense and fact-based approach is required to reach ecological sustainability in the future.

Steve Houser is a consulting arborist, gardener, and naturalist.

Calendar of Events

November 21
ISA Certification Test, Amarillo

The application must be in the ISA office 12 working days prior to the Exam.
http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Certification_Information.htm

December 3–6
American Society of Consulting Arborists Annual Conference, Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, Tucson, AZ

Connect with like-minded professionals. Attend the outstanding Risk Assessment Pre-Conference Workshop and experience the finest learning in arboriculture. Go to:
http://www.asca-consultants.org/conferences.html

December 3–12
ArborMaster Returns to Irving
Level 1 Tree Climbing Methods & Best Practice:
December 3-4
Level 1 Precision Felling:
December 5-6
Level 1 Arborist Rigging Applications:
December 8-9
Level 2 Arborist Rigging Applications:
December 10-12
Visit **www.ArborMaster.com** for details.

January, 2009 – Date to be Announced
Certified Tree Worker Workshop, Dallas/Ft. Worth Area

This is the workshop originally set for November, which had to be postponed due to Hurricane Ike. At press time the workshop was going to be held sometime in January in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Stay tuned to the ISAT website **www.isatexas.com** for updates, or call Nevic Donnelly at 512-922-7058.

January 9 & 10 and 23 & 24, 2009
College Station Conference Center, College Station

Highly regarded four-day short course designed to provide you with an in-depth knowledge of how to care for urban trees. Dr. Todd Watson, an ISA Board-Certified Master Arborist, integrates research and practical experience in his teaching style. For details contact Dr. Watson at 979-218-0783.

January 17, 2009
ISA Certification Test, Mercer Arboretum, Houston

The application must be in the ISA office 12 working days prior to the Exam.
http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Certification_Information.htm

February 22 – 27, 2009
The Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI)
Palm Key Center, Ridgeland, SC

A week-long intensive educational program for urban forestry professionals. Covers leadership and management tools for shaping a successful community tree care program. For more information and to register:
http://www.urban-forestry.com/mc/page.do?sitePageId=50685&orgId=sma

April 6 – 8, 2009
Trees & Utilities National Conference, Dallas

A forum for utility professionals, community foresters, and concerned citizens to exchange ideas and explore ways to work together to accomplish the dual goal of growing healthy community forests and providing reliable, low-cost utility service. Hosted by the National Arbor Day Foundation. For more information:
http://www.arborday.org

April 24 – 26, 2009
Texas Forest Expo, Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe

Classes, workshops and interactive booths and exhibits for homeowners and landowners, plus learning activities for children. The expo's motto is "Building forests one backyard at a time." For more information go to
http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/conferences/texasforestexpo/

May 1, 2009
ISA Certification Test, CPS Energy Training Center Auditorium, San Antonio

The application must be in the ISA office 12 working days prior to the Exam.
http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Certification_Information.htm

Rainbow Treecare Scientific's
Solution Center
covers you from A to Z

Rainbow Treecare Scientific is designed to serve arborists. Our new **Solution Center** is staffed with specialists who provide training and sales support for tree health care products. Our company was founded in arboriculture, so we can also help with your questions about adding services, profitability, and marketing to clients.

A — Aphids
Application Method: 1, **2**, 3
Xytect
Fall application provides control next season.

B — Bronze Birch Borer
Application Method: 1, **2**, 3
Xytect and/or Bifenthrin
Attacks weak, stressed trees. Mulch, irrigate, and promote health to prevent this pest.

C — Chlorosis
Application Method: 3
VERDUR
Macro-infuse in fall for multi-year green up. Combine with soil decompaction, fertilization.

D — Dutch Elm Disease
Application Method: 3
Arbotect 20-S
Macro-infuse to protect for 2 to 3 seasons. Does not stop root graft infection.

E — Emerald Ash Borer
Application Method: 1, **2**, 3
Xytect and/or Bifenthrin
Annual preventive applications work best. Highly infested trees may be difficult to save.

F — Fireblight
Application Method: 1
Copper hydroxide
Prune below infected tissue in winter. Spray in dormant season and at full bloom.

G — Gypsy Moth
Application Method: **1**, 3
Spinosad Acephate
Spray at early instar stage. Broad programs often use *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

H — Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
Application Method: 1, **2**, 3
Xytect
Apply soil applications >60 days prior to fall feeding. Re-treat when suppression falters.

I — Injured Roots
Application Method: 2
Cambistat Prevention Air Tools
Air tools decompact soil. Blend in organic matter and mulch over the top.

J — Japanese Beetle
Application Method: 1, **2**, 3
Xytect and/or Bifenthrin
Adults feed midsummer, grubs feed on roots until October.

K — K Deficiency
Application Method: 2
Fertilizer
Essential element and macronutrient.

L — Lepidoptera
Application Method: **1**, 3
Spinosad Acephate
Foliar spray works best for early instar caterpillar stages.

M — Mites
Application Method: **1**, 3
Aracinate LUCID
Micro-infusion with M3 Infuser, or foliar applications combined with horticultural oil.

N — Needlecast
Application Method: 1
Chlorothalonil
Requires two applications; one at 1/2 candle extension and one at full extension.

O — Oak Wilt
Application Method: 3
Alamo
Protect healthy oaks within root graft distance of infected trees. Save infected white and bur oaks.

P — Pine Wilt Nematode
Application Method: 3
Pinetect
Treat preventively every other year prior to May 1.

Q — Quercus Decline
Application Method: 1
Cultural Practices
Caused by a complex interaction of biotic and abiotic stresses.

R — Rhizosphaera
Application Method: 1
Chlorothalonil
Requires multiple years of treatment and cultural practices.

S — Sycamore Anthracnose
Application Method: 3
Arbotect 20-S
Macro-infusion suppresses symptoms for 3 seasons.

T — Two-Lined Chestnut Borer
Application Method: 1, **2**, 3
Xytect and/or Bifenthrin
Attacks weak, stressed trees. Mulch, irrigate, and promote health to prevent this pest.

U — Urban Stress
Application Method: 2
Cambistat ISA Arborist
Everyone should call an arborist to care for their ailing urban trees.

V — Verticillium Wilt
Application Method: 3
No Known Cure
Delay symptoms by proper pruning, watering, and fertilization. Rainbow is testing treatments.

W — Weevils
Application Method: 1, **2**, 3
Xytect
Fall application provides control next season.

X — *Xylella fastidiosa*
Application Method: 3
BACASTAT
Annual application of Bacastat suppresses symptoms of bacterial leaf scorch.

Y — Yellows
No Known Cure
Difficult to identify. Set low expectations with homeowner.

Z — Zimmerman Pine Moth
Application Method: 1
Bifenthrin
Apply to trunk and main branches in spring and again midsummer.

Application Method
1 Foliar Spray
2 Soil Applied
3 Tree Injection
highlighted number represents recommended method

Pest / Tree Health Problem
Product Solution
Additional Information

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Consider Tree Habitat *by Walter Passmore*

Natural systems often exist, function, and thrive until people are involved. When the needs of society such as roads, houses, fences, jogging trails, super-mega box stores, and coffee vendor patios are installed, they create impacts and obstacles to functions of the natural system that must be counteracted through management. Recognizing the impacts and then managing a site to simulate the pre-impact habitat will alleviate many common tree problems. By mimicking natural systems, an ecosystem approach promotes elements vital to sustainable tree habitat.

Tree habitat is where the living conditions on a particular site provide the needs of the tree. Since trees can't move, their habitat is an established area which must provide light, water, shelter, nutrients, soil, growing space (above and below ground), and air. The quality of the habitat is an accumulation of the amount of each of these essential elements in comparison to the requirements of the individual tree. When conditions are close to optimal trees live longer, grow larger, are more resistant to insects and disease, function efficiently, are more structurally sound, and reproduce. Conversely, conditions which are much less than optimal have the reverse effect.

Street trees or trees on small lots in town are examples of where tree habitat is less than optimal. In many cases trees suffer an early death or major structural failure as a result of an accumulation of human caused impacts.

A not so long-lived live oak street tree suffered from a hostile habitat.

A tree's habitat reaches even beyond the furthest root or branch to the surrounding trees that provide shelter against the wind, the watershed which flows with water and suspended elements, and the airshed of gases and particulates. Individual tree health is influenced by conditions to the extent of these broad boundaries. Individual tree care practices should take these ecosystem influences into consideration. Some trees may have impacts that cannot be mitigated under existing ecosystem conditions. Some sites may have an ecosystem that cannot support trees of a particular species – or maybe not trees at all.

The central recommendation of this article is to think beyond the one tree in front of you in order to implement practices which create and promote good tree habitat. Tree habitat improvement practices may include mulching, removal of competing vegetation (such as turf grass), removal of exotic-invasive pests, soil aeration, supplemental watering, site use restrictions, and others.