



In the Shade

Vol. 33, No 4
November, 2009



THE 2009 TEXAS TREE CONFERENCE was a big success. We had a record number of attendees in Round Rock and are looking forward to next year's event in College Station on September 22-24, 2010.

There's more about the conference elsewhere in this newsletter, including photos on page 9 and an article about the award winners on pages 4 and 5.

To see many more photos of this year's Academy, Conference and Tree School visit: <http://picasaweb.google.com/jpg104/2009TexasTreeConference#>.

To download photos and information about the award winners go to: http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Awards/Award_Winners.htm

Download the conference evaluation results at: <http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Conference/2009 Texas Tree Conference.htm>

To volunteer to help out on the 2010 conference, contact Dr. Todd Watson at t-watson@tamu.edu

New ISAT Officers

2009-2010 Officers (one-year term)

- *President Jim Carse, City of Round Rock
- Past President John Giedraitis, Texas Forest Service, College Station
- *President-Elect Todd Watson, Texas A&M, College Station
- *Vice-President Keith Brown, Austin Tree Experts, Austin
- *Editor, Paul Johnson, Texas Forest Service, San Antonio

Board of Directors (two-year term)

- *Sarah Brackin, Arboriological Services, Dallas
- *Heather Brewer, City of Georgetown
- *Greg David, TreeConsult, LLC, Muenster
- Nevic Donnelly, They Might Be Monkeys Tree Care, Austin
- Susan Henson, City of Grand Prairie
- *Emily King, City of Austin
- James Tuttle, Tree Loving Care, Lubbock
- *David Vaughan, Etter Tree Care, San Antonio
- Hans Williams, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches

ISA Chapter Liaison (three-year term)

- *John Giedraitis, TFS, College Station

Chapter Certification Liaison (three-year term)

- *Patrick Wentworth, Austin Tree Specialists, Austin

(*elected or re-elected)



President's Corner by Jim Carse

GROWING OUR CHAPTER AND OUR MISSION

This first writing assignment is going to be short and to the point – mainly because of procrastination. But I could say the real reason is because I want to save space for you all to send in fun and interesting stuff to read about. Yeah, I like that one better.

Honestly, I only have two main things I want to say. The first is to thank everyone who helped put together the 2009 Conference in Round Rock! As chair, there was a whole lot to organize and plan. We could not have pulled it off without the help from all the committees, volunteers, sponsors, and vendors. I know that like me, many of you worked late into the night to get all the details polished out. We had some great speakers from all over the nation, and we heard some very interesting talks about what's going on here in Texas as well. Looking back, it was one of the most rewarding things I've ever been part of. Thanks again for all your help.

The second topic is about our chapter as a whole. I didn't really get a chance at the conference business meeting to say much about what I'd like to see happen this coming year with ISAT. My main goal is to use the funds we have in reserve to spread ISAT further across the state--mainly in the form of education, but also in terms of outreach to the profession, the community, and Texas trees. I'd like to see more volunteer and chapter workdays throughout the state. The idea came up about using chapter funds and volunteer time to contribute to charitable causes, like planting trees at Habitat for Humanity homes. Increasing our membership goes directly in line with these ideas. We need to inform those who are not Texas Chapter members why they should be, and what benefits come along with membership. We need to continue raising the bar by offering more educational services and CEU opportunities, and in turn give folks a reason to get involved at the local level and become a model for the profession.



Last but not least, please consider being part of a committee and help to grow the mission of ISA. Want to have a training or workshop in your neck of the woods? Want to see some research done about a specific tree disease or insect? Well give me, your local board member, or our Executive Director a call or email and we'll do our best to make it happen.

Best Regards,
Jim Carse
President,
Texas Chapter ISA



Review of the 2009 Texas Tree Conference

By Michael Nentwich, City Forester, San Antonio

The 2009 Texas Tree Conference was informative and inspiring. No matter which route was taken, municipal or practicing arborist, there was applicable information for all.

For example, as a municipal forester, I thoroughly appreciated the targeted information on managing storm cleanups, community building (heritage/historical tree appreciation), interaction (public speaking is a skill that we desperately need to keep improving), and long-term planning beginning with proper installation and training/pruning.

Furthermore, practicing arborists got hands-on training in planting methods. They also received practical information on tools that help minimize fatigue and/or injuries. This is so important when considering that minimizing fatigue and injuries relates to a safer and more productive work environment.

It wasn't just the information that was appreciated. It does no good to have a great topic if the speaker cannot deliver the information in a manner that is engaging. For the most part,

the information was delivered quite well. Evidence of this could be heard in the conversations at the conference, ideas on what could be done in other cities, and the inspired desire of colleagues to actually implement those ideas. This all led to what I consider a resoundingly successful conference.

Suggestions for future conferences include more stringent time limits, technology backups for those times when computers may not cooperate, and more hands-on exercises (the planting was very successful).

Using Leaves to Monitor Air Quality

Tree leaves may be powerful tools for monitoring air quality and planning biking routes and walking paths, suggests a new study by scientists at Western Washington University. The magnetic properties of leaves help researchers study particulate matter concentrations in the air near vehicle exhaust. Read more at:

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-10/gsoa-mlr101509.php

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Congratulations, 2009 Award Winners . . .

2009 Individual Awards

TEXAS ARBORIST OF THE YEAR Courtney Blevins, Staff Forester, Texas Forest Service



A 22-year veteran of Texas Forest Service, Courtney is a founding member of the Trinity Blacklands and Cross

Timbers urban forestry councils. He also teaches arboriculture at Tarrant County College and often works with area community groups. But at his very core is a desire to help communities plant, care for, remove and protect trees.

He says, “ISA and specifically ISA Texas Chapter have been invaluable to me in my career. There is the obvious value of the research done and presented through ISA but of even greater value are the personal relationships I’ve developed over the years. This network of fellow professionals has taught me more than all the books and publications ever can and I am deeply grateful for their influence.”

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT Ruthe Jackson, Grand Prairie Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem

A true civic leader, Ruthe Jackson has volunteered in a variety of ways including serving on the Grand Prairie City Council and Dallas County School Board. She helped to found more than half of the 30 philanthropic organizations of which she is a member, and two buildings have been named in her honor.

The first forestry project she took on was digging up 254 live oaks planted at the LBJ Ranch and sending one to each county in the state to promote tree planting and Texas heritage. She has received various awards including the Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Environmental Award from Keep America Beautiful and the 2001 National Award for Excellence in Community Service from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



2009 Project Award

ARBORICULTURAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR Republic Square Tree Preservation Project, TBG Partners, Daniel Woodroffe

TBG Partners was tasked with redesigning the famed Republic Square Park in downtown Austin and preserving and enhancing the 200-year-old Auction Oaks planted there. The firm hired tree experts and has insisted throughout the project that tree protection be a top priority rather than simply a drag on the budget and schedule. The project is a model of excellence for how a contracting business accomplishes successful tree preservation on a construction project.

This award recognizes a specific tree planting, care or protection project that exemplifies modern arboricultural practices and customer service.



“These award winners exemplify the best of the best in tree care and community forestry. They serve as models for statewide efforts to plant, care for, protect and plan for the trees where we live, work and play.”

*—John Giedraitis, outgoing ISAT president
and urban forestry manager for Texas Forest Service*

... You're the "Best of the Best"

2009 Gold Leaf Awards

GOLD LEAF FOR LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION: 2 WINNERS

This award is designed to recognize those who, through tree planting and landscaping, have enhanced environmental protection, conservation, beautification, energy conservation or wildlife protection.

Trees Across Sugar Land, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, Executive Director Vicki Gist

Trees Across Sugar Land took root in 2007 with a dream of reforesting Sugar Land Memorial Park. Since then, hundreds of volunteers and more than a dozen sponsors have helped the group plant 35,000 native hardwood saplings and 320 five-gallon trees.



For more information and photos of the award winners and projects—from this year and several previous years—go to:
http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Awards/Award_Winners.htm

Scroll down through the award categories, and click the appropriate year under each category.

Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance, City of Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department Forestry Division, Parks and Recreation Department Director Rick Atkins and Forestry Manager Emsud Horozovic

In 2005 Round Rock adopted the Tree Technical Manual-Standards and Specifications while revising its Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance to ensure preservation and protection of urban trees during land development. As part of the ordinance, city officials created a tree fund that requires developers to pay a fee when a tree is removed and a replacement can't be replanted on the same site. The fund now has nearly \$850,000 available for beautification, landscaping and irrigation. City officials estimate up to 15,000 trees have been replanted as a result of the ordinance and tree fund.



(l to r) Rick Atkins and Emsud Horozovic of the City of Round Rock receive award from interim State Forester Tom Boggus.

GOLD LEAF FOR ARBOR DAY

This award is designed for organizations or individuals who promote Arbor Day through special projects, ceremonies, news articles or observations with an Arbor Day theme.

Green Select Day, Casey Carpet One in Amarillo, Clint Norton

In May, Casey Carpet One Floor & Home teamed up with Amarillo Parks and Recreation to host their second annual National Green Select Day at



McDonald Park. The company raised nearly \$65,000—mostly in the form of small donations—to purchase more than 150 trees and 12,000 square feet of sod. More than 600 volunteers turned out to help plant the trees.

Lots of 2009 Conference photos are posted at:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/jpg104/2009TexasTreeConference#>

Something New is Sooty in Dallas

by Heather Brewer

On Thursday afternoon, following the 30th annual Texas Tree Conference awards banquet, I tried frantically to read the class schedule and decide on my next lecture. Then, like a neon arrow on the Vegas strip, there it was: “New Invasive Insects in Texas,” presented by Dr. Scott Ludwig with Texas AgriLife Extension Service. I have fond memories of my forest entomology class, with Dr. David Kulhavy at Stephen F. Austin State University, and even though I knew Dr. Ludwig would not be taking us on any field collection adventures I was still game.

Dr. Ludwig began by discussing several insects that we, as an industry, have been hearing about lately, such as the emerald ash borer and the soapberry flatheaded borer. Then Dr. Ludwig moved on to an insect I had not heard about: the azalea bark scale tree pest. As far as engaging discussions during lectures at tree conferences go, the azalea bark scale generated a flurry of conversation among the attendees. I had found my newsletter topic in this tiny insect.

This photo, taken by Dr. Scott Ludwig with Texas AgriLife Extension, shows the color and size of the azalea bark scale in relation to one of its natural predators, the lady beetle.



Apparently, this insect has only been in the state for about three years, and has restricted its activity to the Dallas/Plano/Richardson/McKinney area. Initially the pest was believed to be azalea bark scale, *Eriococcus azaleae*. This scale historically was found on azaleas, but in the Dallas area it was only found on crape myrtles. AgriLife Extension is now thinking this may actually be a new invasive scale species. They are currently getting the scale re-identified.

Like all scale insects, this pest is a piercing, sucking insect. It is white to gray in color and is usually first noticed by the black sooty mold it leaves behind on bark. When it is smashed it is a bright blood red color. These insects have huge populations, sometimes covering crape myrtles entirely. Little is known about them yet, but it is suspected that they have two generations a year. They are dispersed either by wind or birds.

Systemic drenches like Meridian, Safari, and Merit effectively control infestations. Foliar applications can be difficult because the little critters hide under loose crape myrtle bark. To remove the heavy infestations, wash the covered branches with a soft brush and a mild detergent along with a systemic drench treatment. Washing the bark will remove many of the female scales, egg masses, and the black mold, that your clients hate. Lady bugs are a natural predator of the azalea bark scale.

AgriLife wants to know more about these pests and their ranges. If you see anything that you think might be an azalea bark scale please contact Dr. Mike Merchant and send him a sample at: Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX 75252-6599, m-merchant@tamu.edu

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North Texas Arborist Harold Spiegel Named ISA “True Professional”

The inaugural induction of seven arborists from around the world into a new, elite group of tree care professionals included one of North Texas’ own: Harold A. Spiegel, Jr., founder and president of Preservation Tree Services, Inc.

The International Society of Arboriculture created the “True Professional” designation for those who exemplify the very best in the industry.

A particular passion for Harold is the preservation of trees in the construction site, and he has worked extensively on this cause in the Dallas-Fort Worth residential and commercial sectors for over 25 years.

Harold is a founding member of the Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council. He has also served and supported the boards of La Reunion Texas, Texas Discovery Gardens, Dallas Urban Forestry Council, and Texas Nursery and Landscape Association Organic Education.

BEETLE-MANIA

BEETLE-MANIA is not a pop music fad from the ‘60s. It’s an AgriLife Extension newsletter on biological control of saltcedar in Texas.

For more information on biological control of saltcedar and other invasive weeds, visit <http://bc4weeds.tamu.edu/>.

To be included on the BEETLE-MANIA mailing list, email Allen Knutson, professor and extension entomologist, at aknutson@tamu.edu

The saltcedar leaf beetle feeds only on saltcedar and relatives in the genus *Tamarix*. If saltcedar trees are not present, the larvae starve. Since saltcedar beetles were first released in Texas five years ago, there have been no reports of beetles or larvae feeding on any other plant.

ArborNews! is Now a Blog

The free monthly *ArborNews!* tree care newsletter published by TreeConsult is changing to a blog format with an optional free email subscription feature. The new format will allow for more timely updates on tree health problems and other news. It will also be searchable to make it easier to locate articles on specific topics. Go to: <http://www.arbornews.blogspot.com/>

You can bookmark and view the blog at your convenience, or subscribe to email updates that will provide an email notice each time the blog is updated.

Tree Benefits Explained To Local Government Officials

A recent issue of *InSight*, a newsletter published by the North Texas Council of Governments, includes an updated article on the benefits of trees by Steve Houser, chairman of the Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee.

Documented benefits include:

- improved air quality
- reduced energy use
- reduced urban temperatures
- reduced storm water runoff and flooding
- improved water quality
- increased economic benefit
- other benefits: reduction in stress associated with urban living, reduced crime rates, reduced noise pollution, and increased habitat and food for wildlife.

To read the complete article go to <http://www.nctcog.org/envir/features/2009/Sep/RegVoices.asp>

The NCTCOG newsletter goes to more than 2,000 local government officials. Subscribe to *InSight* or any of the group’s other free email lists at: <http://www.nctcog.org/stayinformed.asp>

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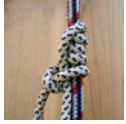
Co-sponsored by the Western Chapter ISA





At the Conference . . .





Climbing Lines by Guy LeBlanc

BEWARE THE GIANT GRASS

Palm trees are common throughout the southern half of Texas, and non-native species have become even more common now that the memory of the great freeze of 1983 has worn off. Often attaining a height of over forty feet, palms have become something which some Texas tree services work on regularly. And so, as with all other trees, we must consider two important things when caring for them: their health and our safety.

First, some basic anatomy and physiology: Being “large heavy plants that can kill you if they fall on you,” as Dr. Alex Shigo described trees, palms definitely meet this definition. However, there is a key difference between palms and other trees. Palms are monocots, which technically means they are related to grass. Other trees (oaks, elms, pecans, etc.) are dicots. The importance of this difference for this article is that dicots all have a cambium layer around their circumference, just under

the bark, from which the layers of xylem and phloem tissues form. Stem diameters increase over time. Wounds close over, usually from their outer margins, as time passes. In monocots, there is no cambium around the trunk circumference. Xylem and phloem tissues are grouped in bundles scattered throughout the entire trunk.

What this means from a tree health standpoint is that wounds to the trunk of a palm will not cover with new tissue (“woundwood” or “callus”) the way a “real” tree will. Hence, wounds from something like climbing spurs, for instance, never close. While the vascular tissue in palms doesn’t seem to be extremely susceptible to disease and insect invasion from these wounds (personal observation), it is still a potential infection court that can and should be avoided. Unfortunately, spurs are still commonly used for palm pruning (*see photo*). This is perhaps due to the difficult nature of ascending

palms, with their smooth, branchless trunks. I’ll return to that shortly.

Another aspect of health to consider while pruning palms is that like all other trees, they are significantly injured by excessive pruning. Unfortunately this seems to be even more common in palms than in other trees. If you have ever seen a palm with an hourglass-shaped dent in its trunk, what you most likely saw was a palm that was overpruned at that point in its life. Even more so than the removal of too many limbs from the trunk

of a dicot, the removal of too many fronds (leaves) from a palm can lead to a reduction in trunk diameter. This creates a weak point which exists for the rest of the plant’s life. This is in addition of course to the general stress caused by the reduction of food production that accompanies excessive leaf loss in any species.

The rule of thumb I recommend for pruning fan-leaved palms is to think of the canopy as a clock face and not remove any live fronds above 9 and 3 o’clock. However, palms often have many half-dead fronds. It is important to remember that there can still be photosynthetic activity occurring in these fronds, even in the petiole (stalk). If I am dealing with a palm that seems not to be growing vigorously I will leave these, especially if they are horizontal or higher.

Regarding safe ascent and pruning, it is worth noting that in the last few years there has been an alarming increase in the number of palm pruning-related fatalities reported. If you read ISA’s Arbor Age or TCIA’s TCI Magazine you have seen these reports. Regardless of the reason for this increase, it certainly focuses on a very real hazard. Many of these fatalities (and rescues) involve what is called “sloughing.” This is when a large “skirt” of dead fronds comes loose from the trunk as a whole unit. This can pin a climber underneath. The cause of death in this situation is usually suffocation, due to the weight of the skirt and its tendency to pin the climber’s head to his chest, according to Richard Magargal, a tree worker trainer from California who has been both a rescuer and a victim in actual rescues involving sloughed skirts.

A newer technique for working palms involves a variation of the Single Rope Technique (SRT) which has gained much popularity in recent years. The technique is quite simple. A throw line is used to install a rated line through the center of the canopy. In

Continued on next page

This climber is using spurs – not recommended!



Climbing Lines

Continued from previous page

my opinion, much care should be used to avoid damage to the “spear” of new growth, as this is the tree’s meristem (growing point), but according to Magargal, this region is actually fairly hardy. One end of the line then has a rated block (or pulley, etc.) attached to it, and the climbing line is installed through it. Then the block is raised, becoming basically a false or floating crotch. The other end is then tied off, preferably to something other than the palm itself if a chain saw will be used. This will keep the line off the trunk, and less likely to be accidentally cut. The tree is then ascended, ideally with a sliding hitch or anchor hitch technique (see Nov. ’07). This keeps the climber tied in at all times, and keeps him or her outside of the skirt, not under it. I don’t see why the actual SRT could not be used in the same way. In a future article, I will be discussing the pros and cons of SRT.

According to Magargal, it is important to maintain a second tie-in when climbing palms. This is of course mandatory if chainsaws are in use, but even for handsaw and – ahem – other cutting tools that palms are sometimes attacked with – I mean pruned – the risk of cutting your primary line is high because the canopy is so dense.

Magargal has written some very detailed articles about this subject, some of them published in a great newspaper called Southwest Trees and Turf, a paper I highly recommend. Although most of these sloughing accidents occur in areas where the skirts get much larger than they do here, the information is still certainly applicable. So next time you’re in Margaritaville under the swaying palms, remember what it takes to prune them properly and safely.

The author has owned and operated Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin for over 25 years. He is available for training seminars in tree care and worker safety and may be reached at 512-301-8700.

SPRTI and ISA to Host Arborist Workshop

The ISA and the Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute will host a special Arborist Workshop February 7–10, 2010, at the Western Hills Guest Ranch in Sequoyah State Park, Oklahoma, 54 miles east of Tulsa.

CEUs will be provided for the arborist training, and there will be an ISA Certification Exam February 9. To register for the workshop or download a mail-in registration form, visit www.swprti.org and go to the Arborist Workshop page. To register for the Certification Exam, go to <http://isa-arbor.com/certification/certification.aspx>

If you have questions, please call Melinda Adams, City of Fort Worth, 817-392-5705.

The Engineer & the Tree

Here’s an “awwww” story about an engineer who calls a threatened palm tree his “old friend.” The palm is surviving on a garbage-strewn highway embankment, waiting for the TxDOT bulldozers, and the engineer is trying to save it.

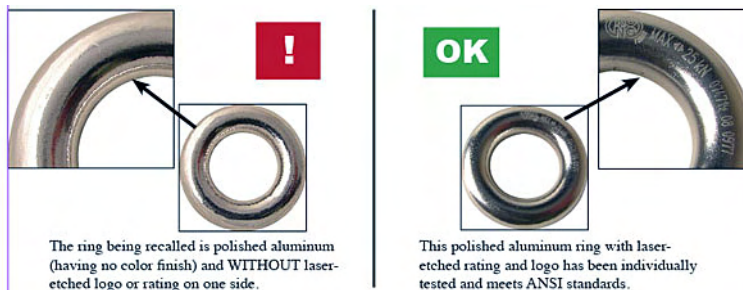
Read the story by Jacquielynn Floyd (and the comments) at: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/localnews/columnists/jfloyd/stories/DN-floyd_16met.ART0.State.Edition1.4bc6eab.html.

Note: As this issue was being put together, Steve Houser sent word from Dallas that a concerned group has made an offer that may move the palm to the property of an owner who appreciates it as a unique treasure.

In Case you Missed the Aluminum Ring Recall . . .

Note: This voluntary recall of aluminum rings was announced in August. KONG Bonaiti of Italy has confirmed the issuance of polished aluminum rings that were sourced elsewhere and distributed without individual testing. A quantity of these rings were mixed into KONG boxes without having been individually tested and laser marked. Furthermore, two users have experienced failure of these rings that could have led to injury. If you have such a ring (below left), stand-alone or spliced into a product, it is vitally important that you dispose of or submit for replacement immediately. **Delaying or avoiding immediate disposal or replacement could prove fatal to user !**

Upon receipt of recalled ring(s), the sender will be furnished free of charge an individually tested and laser etched replacement. If a similar ring WAS PURCHASED ELSEWHERE, we will gladly replace it. If the ring supports a Sherrill-spliced rope product, that too will be replaced and shipped (within the US) at no additional charge. SherrillTree will compensate customers having bought direct from SherrillTree (with invoice on record) with \$5 credit for their shipping expenses. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may present and will work quickly to return replacements.



Please include return address and send RINGS ONLY (and Sherrill-spliced attachment if exists) to: Ring Recall, 200 Seneca Rd., Greensboro, NC 27406.

What is our Role in Changing an Industry?

By Tyson Woods, Moore Tree Care, Dallas

At the recent ISA Tree Conference in Round Rock, both Dr. Ed Gillman and Dr. Bonnie Appleton placed a great deal of emphasis on the problems with the root systems of trees that are currently being grown in nurseries across the country. Both were very critical of a large percentage of trees being planted. It really appears to be an epidemic; every day, hundreds, if not thousands, of trees are being planted with problems and defective roots systems that will limit the life expectancy of these trees. Many of the problems that these trees will eventually suffer from are first diagnosed by arborists.

As professional arborists, how can we help change the poor growing practices that are so prevalent across the country? As we know, it is often very slow and difficult to change practices that are so embedded in an industry, for example the practice of topping trees. I strongly believe that the most effective and efficient means of change comes when the ultimate consumer demands the change. As long as consumers are willing to buy inferior trees, the growers do not have real pressure to change.

As professional arborists we have an obligation to help educate consumers about the problems related to defective root systems and trees that are planted too deep. Every day we encounter people who are the ultimate purchasers of trees. We need to make them aware of the problems so that they become smarter consumers and start to be more selective in the process of buying trees. We traditionally have focused our efforts and complaints towards the growers, landscape architects, and landscape contractors. As most of us know, this can be very frustrating because they are often set in their ways and slow to change. We need to continue trying to influence our co-professionals in the green industry, but I contend that we will be more effective if we increase our efforts to educate the end consumer about this real problem. If we pursue this approach we might see some change before we are old and gray.

I often ask groups that I speak with, "Why do we plant trees?" Whatever their answer might be, it is generally a very noble and long term motivation. Isn't it a shame that the majority of trees that are planted have defects that will limit the tree's ability to satisfy the long term motivation for planting the tree? Dr. Gillman and Dr. Appleton are doing their part; now let's go out and educate the consumer.

ISA Certified Tree Worker Program en Español and English

Get an ISA Certification and boost your career. Join us November 14 and 15 at the Thompson Conference Center on the UT campus in Austin. Our program is designed to provide all the requirements you need to qualify for ISA Certified Tree Worker. You'll need 1 1/2 years climbing experience and this workshop. When you pass the exams you'll walk away with an ISA Certification.

Activities include aerial rescue training and demonstration, knot tying demonstration, skills exam, CPR/First Aid certification and written exam. Class will be 8am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday, and lunch is provided. Eight pre-qualified CEUs are available for certified arborists, certified tree workers and TCIA-certified tree care safety professionals.

The training and demonstrations will be conducted by Guy LeBlanc and Jose Mercado. Mr. LeBlanc is a leader in tree worker safety in Texas. Mr. Mercado, who will translate for Spanish-speaking attendees, is a Certified Arborist and is active in ISA activities. For more information contact Keith Brown, 512-565-7164.

(Note to candidates for Certified Tree Worker: October 28 was the application deadline for the certification exam that will be held as part of this workshop. If you missed it, feel free to come for the training, demonstrations and CPR certification. The next exam will be in March. Note to those already certified: come get some CEUs.)

Tree City USA Deadlines

It's time to apply or renew your application to gain Tree City USA status. New, renewal and growth applications are available by request to eharris@tfs.tamu.edu or 979-458-6650; deadline is Dec. 31, 2009. Details at: <http://www.arboday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/index.cfm>

The Tree Line USA deadline is fast approaching!

Be sure to get your application in before the Dec. 31, 2009, deadline. Review program standards and request your 2009 application directly from the National Arbor Day Foundation at

<http://www.arboday.org/programs/treeLineUSA/index.cfm>

Are you a university grounds manager or college campus arborist? Check out how to become a Tree Campus USA.

The application deadline is Dec. 31, 2009. Apply online <http://www.arboday.org/programs/treecampususa/index.cfm>



WEB WORM

by Patrick Wentworth

<http://www.coopermill.com/products.cfm?category=AF&subcategory=MO>

Insect traps to use for IPM.

http://www.dmoz.org/Business/Agriculture_and_Forestry/Biologicals/

List of biological producers/ suppliers

<http://store.treecarehardware.com/index.html>

Tree care hardware and supplies

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/nov08/pecans1108.htm>

USDA source for pecan information

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/mistletoeextract-could-kiss-tumours-goodbye/1386162.aspx>
Mistletoe as a possible cure for some cancer tumors.

<http://www.treeandneighborlaw.com/main/>
Excellent site for trees and the law.

<http://www.coloradotrees.org/benefits.htm>
Benefits of trees

<http://www.freespiritspheres.com/>
tree houses

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/09/090908151330.htm>

Electricity from trees

<http://atlasobscura.com/places/root-bridges-cherrapunjee>
Bridges made from tree roots.

<http://www.treescleanair.org/>
Trees clean the air

<http://www.americanforests.org/resources/urbanforests/treedeficit.php>
Urban canopy cover project



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Invasive Plant & Pest Conference Nov. 13-14

The Texas Invasive Plant & Pest Council will host the third statewide invasive species conference at Trinity University in San Antonio November 13 & 14. The conference is designed for all professionals interested in invasive species issues in Texas.

For more information see:
<http://www.texasinvasives.org/conference/conference09.php>

Solar Highway Gets Prototype Funding

A radical highway design using solar panels, LED lighting, and heating elements has been awarded funding by the Department of Transportation to the tune of \$100,000. Will the solar highway replace asphalt?

For details see this article by Christopher DeMorro at
<http://gas2.org/2009/08/31/driving-on-electric-glass-solar-highway-awarded-prototype-funding/>

Look Up and Live (and other lessons)

Excerpts from three news items, along with safety reminders:

- At about 9:25 this morning, a tree trimmer was up on a 40 foot ladder when it began to fall into a power line. Seeing this happening, he jumped off to avoid being electrocuted. He died due to the injuries he suffered in the fall. . . .

. . . a reminder why ladders may be your worst enemy while performing tree work.

- One man was killed and another injured Tuesday morning while they were cutting down a dead tree in southwest Alachua County and a rope attached to a branch came in contact with electrical lines. . . . Both men were retired career employees. . . .

. . . a tragic reminder to keep your ropes clean and dry....no matter your experience level.

- Three members of a Palm Bay family were electrocuted Monday night when a ham radio antenna they were installing fell across power lines. . . . "That metal pole is the perfect conductor," said a police officer. "When you're holding a long metal pole you need to always be cognizant of what you're doing. Sometimes you just forget to look up." . . .

. . . a reminder to always look up and live.

— news items & safety reminders sent in by James Koenig

RGV Urban Forestry Conference Jan. 21

The 4th annual Rio Grande Valley Urban Forestry Conference is scheduled for January 21, 2010, at the Palmview Community Center in McAllen.

Early registration (\$25) runs through January 15, 2010 Regular and at-door registration is \$30. Fee includes all sessions and lunch.

Make checks payable to the City of McAllen, Memo: RGV Urban Forestry Conference. Mail to City of McAllen, P.O.Box 220, McAllen, TX 78505. Attn: Mark Kroeze.

To find out more, contact Ed Kuprel, Edinburg City Forester, 956-388-8202.

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To find the STIHL dealer near you, call 1-800-GO-STIHL or visit stihlusa.com

Trinity Workdays

There is always a need for help with the Trinity Buckeye Trail, including general maintenance and removal of selected grass and privets. Next scheduled workdays are November 14 and 28 and December 19. If you'd like to help, please RSVP by contacting Jim Flood at 972-557-1144 or jdflood@airmail.net.

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