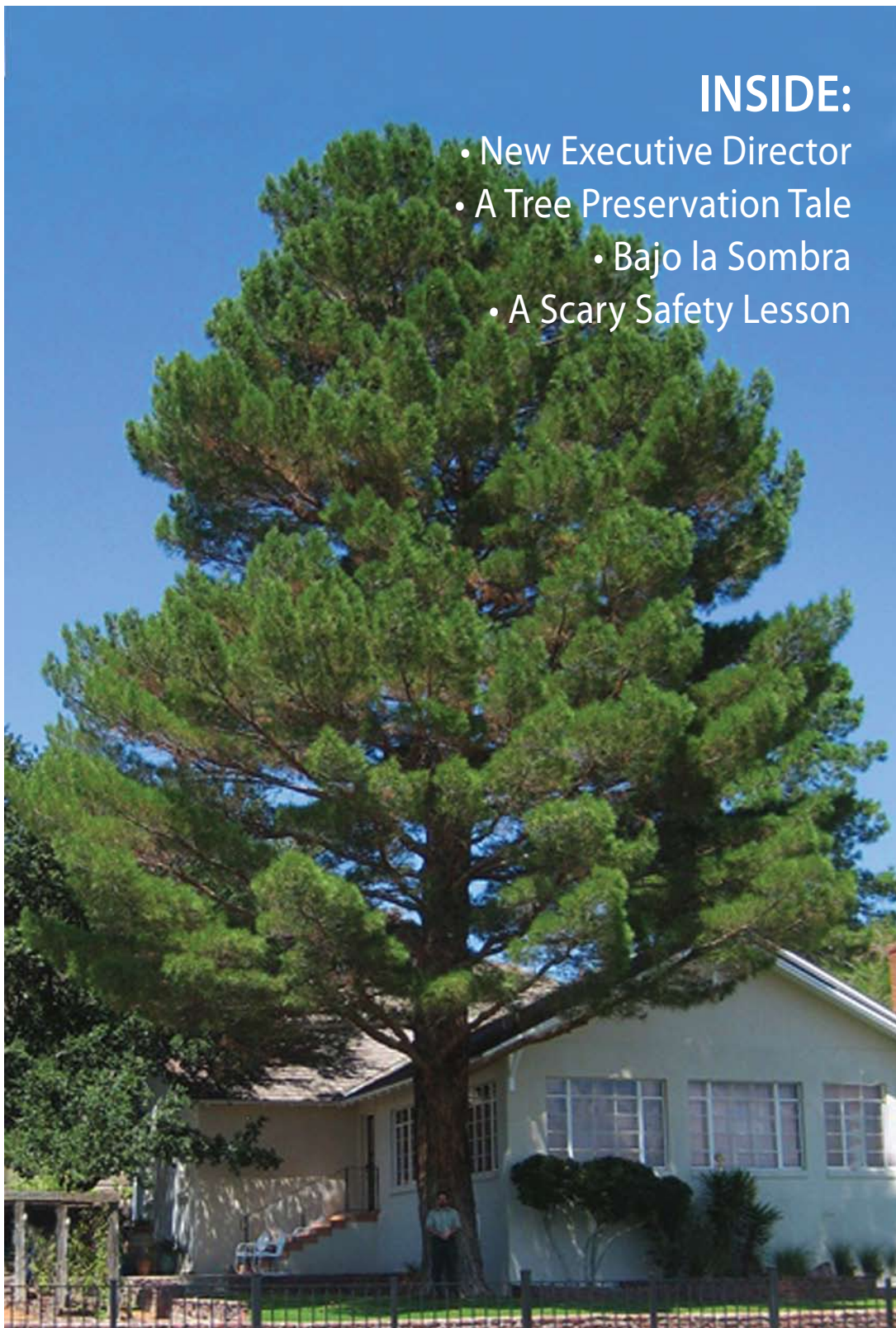


In the Shade



INSIDE:

- New Executive Director
- A Tree Preservation Tale
 - Bajo la Sombra
- A Scary Safety Lesson

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Susan Henson



Fellow Arborists,

As we embark on the new year, to say that "optimism is high" for our profession and organization would be an understatement! Your board recently met for a two-day planning/training retreat. There the board had the unique opportunity to have in attendance Samantha Koon, ISA Director of Marketing and Membership, along with Mark Bluhm, ISA Director of Finance and Operations. They came to us from headquarters for personalized training of the board.

The main objectives of the training were to share organizational information and focus on our strategic direction, mission and directives. Mission launched! With much more to come! We utilized a process called SWOT, where we identified our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We looked at these areas both internally and externally. Basically we worked this training in with a huge agenda of objectives and directions for the future.

One thing we discussed with great pride was the International Conference that will be held in Fort Worth in 2016! That's when our members will be our most valuable asset. Mark your calendars and remember you can attend an International Conference without the huge travel and some of the other expenses. When you volunteer you become a working part of a large international organization educating the public on an international level from our local forest! To show the trademark Texas hospitality and professionalism, we will need members to step up and "show em what ya get" here in Texas!

Check the website often and watch for email blasts or alerts about upcoming workshops, climbing competitions, conference information and much more. Want to help us "Get Growing?" Please just send us your thoughts and suggestions. Remember we work for you to increase professionalism, public awareness, and a million other things so let us know! We can always use your help at competitions, workshops, exams, and the list is long and growing longer as we begin "Branching Out!"

Let's Get Growing,
Susan J. Henson, President ISAT

COVER PHOTO: State Champion Afghan pine, *Pinus eldarica*, Jeff Davis County. Photo by Oscar Mestas. The man in front of the tree is Charles Stair, Resource Specialist II for Texas A&M Forest Service in Alpine.

Call for presentations for 2013 Texas Tree Conference

ISAT is seeking proposals for presentations for the 34th Annual Texas Tree Conference, to be held in Waco October 2– 4. This year, the focus of the conference is "Branching Out" to related professions and industries.

Proposals for the conference will be accepted for 30- or 60-minute oral presentations during general and split sessions. Proposals for 30-minute field demonstrations for the Tree Academy are also being accepted.

Proposals will be evaluated based on overall quality, appropriateness and timeliness of topic, well-defined focus, practical application of material, and the subject's interest to a diverse audience. Only proposals submitted online will be accepted. The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 1. If you are interested, please fill out the online application on the ISAT website: isatexas.com.

Volunteers wanted to help give certification tests

If you are interested in proctoring a certified arborist exam or becoming an evaluator for our expanding certified tree worker program, please contact Misti Beirne at 512-965-1076 or misti_lanehawaii@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

North Central Texas Urban Forestry Conference Feb. 15 in Grand Prairie

The Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council, in partnership with the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council, will hold their 19th annual North Central Texas Urban Forestry Conference Friday, February 15, at the Ruthe Jackson Center in Grand Prairie. Brochures will be sent in early January so watch for them in your inbox!

The theme for this year's conference is Tree Stress Management – Avoidance and Mitigation. Some of the presenters include: Dr. Drew Zwart, Plant Pathologist with Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory; Shawn Bernick, Vice President of Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements; and Joe Pase, Staff Entomologist with Texas A&M Forest Service.

Topics will include tree stress physiology, urban tree stress and insect infestation, and use of structural soils, biochar and growth regulators as mitigation techniques. As the Texas drought continues, understanding how trees respond to environmental stress factors and how to mitigate them becomes more and more important.

As always, CEUs will be offered through ISA, TNLA (Texas Nursery and Landscape Association), TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture), and SAF (Society of American Foresters).

Register at ctufc.org/conference.htm or at the door. If you or your company would like to serve as a vendor or sponsor at this year's event please contact Micah Pace, mpace@tfs.tamu.edu.

Arboriculture 101 Course Jan. 24 & 25 and Feb. 7 & 8 in Bryan

Get ready to take the certified arborist exam or just brush up on your tree skills. Arboriculture 101 is a four-day short course designed to provide practitioners with an in-depth knowledge of how to care for urban trees.

Dr. Todd Watson, a certified master arborist, integrates research and practical experience in his teaching style. The course is built around the 12 domains of the certified arborist exam.

Former students say the quality of teaching was excellent and the course was very informative. They appreciated the attention to real world issues. Attendees routinely score significantly higher than the national average on the certified arborist exam.

The course will be given at the Brazos Center in Bryan. Download a brochure at isatexas.com. To register online go to shop.isatexas.com.

The course is also valuable to other professionals who need to know about proper care of urban trees. It was advertised in TNLA Green (tnlagreen.org/tnlagreen/201212#pg24). Clicking on the ad takes the reader to the ISAT website.

2013 Water Conservation Conference Feb. 28 – Mar. 1 Albuquerque, NM

The 2013 Water Conservation Conference and Expo will be the 18th presented by The Xeriscape Council of New Mexico. This year's theme is Our Water, Our Future: Communication and Cooperation Across Disciplines. The agenda will feature expert speakers and networking opportunities. More than 250 land and water use professionals are expected to attend.

More information at xeriscapenm.com.



The 2013 TTCC will be held at Bob Woodruff Park in Plano May 17 & 18.

A tree workers seminar will be held Thursday, May 16. The tentative subject will be aerial rescue; the presenter is yet to be finalized. Look for more information on the ISAT website and in the next edition of the ISAT newsletter.

To volunteer please contact Kevin Bassett, TTCC chair, by e-mail: kbassett@arborlogical.com or by phone: 972-877-0358.

Meet John Giedraitis, our new Executive Director

“My life’s passion for serving people and trees is really lined up with ISAT’s mission,” says John Giedraitis, the chapter’s new Executive Director. John is retiring from the Texas A&M Forest Service and eagerly looking forward to this new phase of his career.

John knows forestry folks all around the state and is familiar with everyone’s programs, projects and issues. Managing a successful chapter is, for John, a starting point; what he’s aiming for is to have the best ISA chapter in the world. He thinks this is a doable five-year goal.

ISAT is already one of the fastest growing chapters in the country. Plans for the current year—already approved by the board—include expanding the Masters Series to include municipal foresters and utility arborists; expanding the Texas Tree Climbing Championship to include more vendors and exhibitors; and continuing the

growth of the Texas Tree Conference in size and influence.



John points out that new ideas are already cooking at the board level. There are seven new members, and the international office sent some expert consultants to the recent board retreat to provide technical assistance. Reaching out to potential members and potential partner organizations is a process that is

already underway.

A Certified Arborist and Certified Forester, John has been involved in all phases of arboriculture, including municipal and commercial. As Urban Forestry Program Manager for TFS from 1998 to 2012, he directed an extensive program of technical assistance and grants. Previously he was City Forester for 13 years for the City of Austin.

John has been an ISA member since 1984 and is a veteran of all the committee, board, and officer roles in the Texas chapter. He has also been actively involved with many other tree-related non-profit organizations. He has managed dozens of events and given hundreds of presentations and interviews.

John considers his new job a kind of “glue for the organization.” The Executive Director is the public face of the chapter, but he also works behind the scenes to be sure the organization keeps on being of genuine benefit to members and certificate holders. He knows the job ahead will be hard work,

but he sees it as the culmination of his career. “This is the high point,” he says. “Everything I’ve done was leading up to this job. It’s exciting and it’s a real privilege.”

John holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and a Masters of Science in Urban Forestry from Michigan State University.

He is married to Cindy and has two sons, Michael and Daniel, in Aggieland (College Station).

New Texas ISA members

from December 2012 *Arborist News*

Bert Roan, Greenville
Bradlee Mills, Kingsland
Carwin Slade, Austin
Daniel Ryan Finch, Nacogdoches
David Kulhavy, Nacogdoches
Dennis Lawrence Arnold,
North Richland Hills
Eliseo Rios, San Antonio
James Samudio, Fort Worth
Javier Robles, Austin
Jean Gamarra, Arlington
Jennifer DeWolfe, Dallas
John H. Gurasich, Austin
Lawson Everett Eddy, Austin
Martin Spoonemore, Houston
Priscilla J. Files, Galveston
Raul Rivera, Mesquite
Tom May, Denton
Troy J. Meyer, Westlake



John at the recent board retreat.

Winter Texans may carry brown marmorated stink bug

“We’re working to raise awareness about the brown marmorated stink bug in Texas,” said Bill Ree, AgriLife Extension entomologist at College Station. “This pest is hitting some states hard. It’s a great hitchhiker which is probably one, if not the main, reason it has spread to so many states. Adults seeking overwintering sites tend to get in recreational vehicles, travel trailers, etc.”

Ree said the pest can cause lasting foul smells in homes and other confines, plus cause major damage to a wide variety of crops and plants. “The brown marmorated stink bug looks just like other stink bugs, but it’s a drab brown with black mottling on its back and a distinctive pattern of alternating white and black triangles around the outside of the abdomen. If folks start noticing a new stink bug, one they haven’t seen before, then we want to know about it.”

Samples should include the name and contact information of the sender, the location where the bug was found, and the plant or place where it was found. Ree said specimens (preferably dead) should be put in something like a pill bottle and sent to Kira Metz, Minnie Belle Heep Building 216D, 2475 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2475.

Reporting invasive plants? TX Invaders mobile app is ready

It’s official: TX Invaders mobile application is ready for download!

The TX Invaders app streamlines the reporting and monitoring of invasive species. It requires only one device (no more gps or cameras!) and allows for instantaneous data entry. This should improve reporting by increasing fly-by observations (e.g., a chance sighting) and reduce the number of lost or forgotten un-entered observations.



Here are the links for downloading to your device:

iPhones: <https://itunes.apple.com/app/texas-invaders/id572419215?mt=8>

Androids: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bugwood.texasinvasives>.



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EDITOR'S NOTE by Oscar Mestas

The holidays have come and gone. Most of us I hope were nice and not naughty. I had a great time relaxing at home, with nothing really scheduled or planned, other than a few holiday parties and Christmas with my family and friends. But now that the New Year is here it's time to get the ball rolling. Please, if you have not noticed already, there are numerous notices and calls for help on the ISAT web page, isatexas.com, here in the newsletter, and the email blast. We have a new Executive Director, John Giedraitis, so please take a few minutes of your time to welcome him by sending him a short note at jpg@isatexas.com and congratulating him on his new job, as well as a job well done as our webmaster.

As ISAT members and professional arborists we all have a duty to our communities, our organization and our families and friends to do our best. One simple way to do that is to get involved. I know, it's easier to sit back and watch everyone else do the work and then we get to reap the benefits, but every once in a while I know that you have something to say or a new idea or a few hours to give. So I encourage each and every one of you to reach out, send a message of support, set aside some time to volunteer and give a call to one of the committee members.

Just in this issue alone there are several requests for help. Answer Kevin's or Misti's or Emily's call. You can find the committee members by simply clicking the committee button on the left hand side of the page on our website, isatexas.com. We have a great new board. We had a productive strategy session at the retreat and there was a lot of energy oozing out of the new board members as well as great new ideas being tossed around. So let's make sure that we do our part by supporting our Texas chapter. As always, if you have any comments, want to send in an article, or have an idea to make this newsletter a better tool for you, the member, send me a note at omestas@tfs.tamu.edu.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

by Oscar S. Mestas, Regional Urban Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service

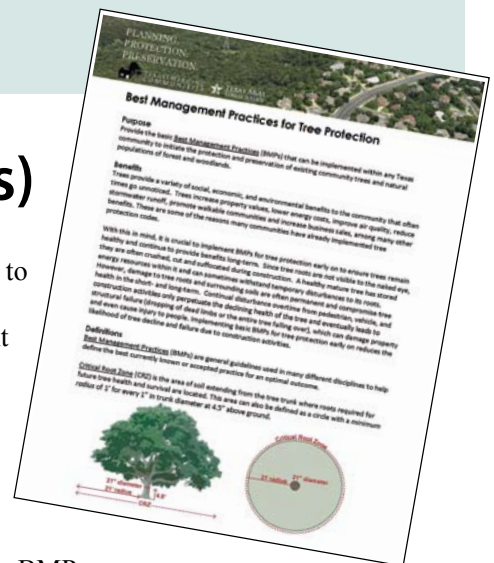
Texas A&M Forest Service is introducing a new online product. As you will read later on, it is directly tied into Vincent Debrock's article "A Tree Preservation Tale" on page 14.

Texas A&M Forest Service has a program called Emerging Communities, and over the past few years TFS has sponsored a series of workshops and trainings trying to help ease the growing pains of smaller, faster growing towns and cities. These communities are now running into concerns of development while at the same time trying to keep that small time, quaint community feeling. One of the best ways to do this is to keep what attracted most people to that area in the first place, and that would be the mature trees.

TFS identified that most of these smaller communities do not have full-time or professional arborists, municipal foresters or city arborists. In order to help these emerging

communities, TFS developed a simple to use and understand four-page document that can be utilized by cities, their contractors, hired consultants and other building and development professionals. These BMPs lay down the basic and simple principles of tree protection and preservation.

So if you are working in these smaller communities, download this product and give it to your local community leaders, or you can simply incorporate the principles in your own plans or scope of work. This new online tool can be found on the Texas Emerging Communities website: texasemergingcommunities.org/resources/BMPs%20Tree%20Protection.pdf.





Site inspection: Your money or your life

Many years ago, as I was finishing a job site clean-up, something on the side of the client's home caught my eye. I looked up and saw part of his gutter hanging down. "Gosh darn it!" I thought to myself (or something like that). I had been working over that part of the house, but was quite sure I hadn't hit the gutter, yet there it was, hanging loose. What now? Well, I had no option but to call my client and explain that although I was pretty sure I hadn't caused the damage, damage there was, and I would get it repaired. To my relief he said "Oh, that's been broken a long time." I swore to myself that from then on my site inspections would include a close inspection of the property for any pre-existing damage, and notify the client before work began. Of course, the best laid plans...

I was reminded of this last month when I descended from a tree I had just pruned right next to a huge arch-topped double paned window. I looked over and saw that the window was cracked from top to bottom. Fill in your own quotation here. Just as with the aforementioned gutter, I was 99.9%

sure I had not hit that window. Yet I had long since forgotten my resolution to completely inspect property prior to work commencing, and now I was going to have another one of those uncomfortable conversations. I went over to the window to inspect it more carefully and found a series of what looked like BB holes in it—those pinpoint holes with the cone of glass missing behind them. Fortunately that was hard evidence that either a negligent lawn boy or mischievous neighborhood kid was to blame. Dodged another one. But hopefully these episodes will remind the rest of us of another good reason for a work site inspection.

The ANSI Z133 calls for a complete site inspection prior to the start of any job for obvious safety reasons. One of the top causes of job site injuries in our profession is trips and falls. Therefore, not only should we be looking for decay in trees, weak crotches, hangers, etc. (to be covered in a later Climbing Lines) but just as importantly, we need to be assessing the entire jobsite for other hazards, including things that can cause injury in other ways.

And I submit that if you want to save yourself from unpleasant conversations in which you are offering to pay for damage you don't think you caused, take the time to look closely at any parts of your client's property you will be in close proximity to: windows, screens, cars, painted areas, etc., and inform your client before work begins if you find something.

As for hazards, another tip is to remember that the inspection can and should begin before you even set foot on the property. Some things that we have to be very aware of are often better seen from a distance. Consider schools. If we have a tree to prune over a city sidewalk, wouldn't it be good to know if there is a school right down the street? And if your crew is most likely going to approach the jobsite from one direction and the school is in another, they may not know it's there until 3 o'clock rolls around and they are trying to set up a work zone that blocks off a sidewalk that dozens of kids are going to try to walk along.

An even more fitting example would be power lines. ANSI standards state that an inspection specifically for their presence is required. Sometimes power lines may otherwise go completely unseen in someone's backyard. If an assumption is then made that the utilities are underground in that area, the consequences could be disastrous. If you ►

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- * Fungicides
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Supersonic Air Knife
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Dave Leonard

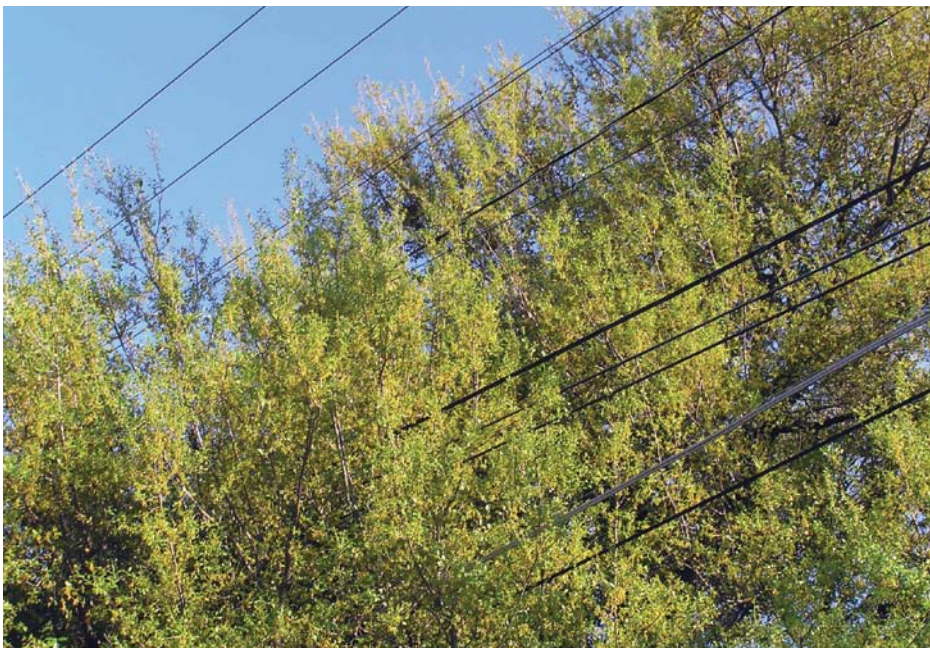
Tree Specialists

For information of the Liquid Injection tools,
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◀ pay attention as you first drive into a neighborhood where you will be working, you will avoid this. Look at the two photos on the right. They are views of the same trees, one from across the street and one from under the trees looking towards the lines, which are invisible from that angle.

Between complacency and hectic production schedules, this mistake can easily be made. Begin your site inspections as you first approach a prospective jobsite, and utilize a comprehensive list of all the things that could cost you your money or your life. ■

The author is the owner and operator of Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin, TX. He has over 30 years experience and is available for worker safety and tree care workshops. He may be reached at 512-301-8700.



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Board Retreat: NEW BOARD FOR A NEW ERA



Board members (l to r): Greg David, John Giedraitis, Michael Nentwich, Michael Sultan, Markus Smith, Oscar Mestas, Keith Brown, Vincent Debrock, Kevin Bassett (orange), Susan Henson, Xavier Leal, Margaret Spencer, Emily King, Ed Dolphin, Misti Beirne, John Warner. (Missing are Orlando De La Garza and Lee Evans.)

By Ed Dolphin

The ISAT 2012-13 board kicked off the new year at beautiful Camp Allen in the Piney Woods of Navasota December 6–7. The board, under the direction of President Susan Henson and Executive Director John Giedraitis, with the assistance of Samantha Koon and Mark Bluhm from the ISA, discussed a myriad of topics, including our strategy going forward, as well as our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to our chapter.

It starts with “Why are we doing this?” and the short answer to that question is to serve you, the members of ISA Texas. We are here to improve the practice of professional arboriculture in Texas through science, education and public awareness. We are here to serve you with workshops, the newsletter, website, certification opportunities, scholarships and the Texas Tree Climbing Championship, but we want to hear from you on how can we serve you better.

ISA Texas is reaching out to TNLA and the Nursery Growers Associations to exchange ideas on how to design better landscapes and grow better tree stock, and to the TCIA and UAA on

how to make your job safer and more productive, but we want to hear from you. Let us know what you would like from us. Let us know the topics that you would like covered at the annual Texas Tree Conference. Let us know what type of regional workshops you would like to have. In exchange we need you; we need you to help us grow the chapter.

Did you know that you do not have to be an ISA Certified Arborist to be a member of ISAT? Did you know that you do not have to be an ISA member, or even an industry professional, to be a member of ISA Texas? We are looking to grow the chapter through public outreach.

Like us at [facebook.com/ISATexas](https://www.facebook.com/ISATexas), post or repost material to our page, add pictures of yourself, your crews, your customer’s trees. Let us know of your accomplishments so that we can celebrate together. Share ideas, ask questions or just enjoy a laugh with us. The ISA Texas is all about you, the member. We are here to help you grow your business, grow healthy landscapes, grow healthy trees, grow healthy lives. Ultimately that is why we are doing what we do at ISAT.



A SWOT analysis with Mark Bluhm from ISA headquarters



Refueling



Mesquite Eco-Study

by Micah Pace
Texas A&M Forest Service

Since its release in 2006, iTree software has been making community tree inventories and urban forest ecosystem analyses more cost effective and attainable. While the convenient and reliable tools available at www.itreetools.org are not designed to replace high-end commercial urban forestry management or resource assessment tools, they have become one of the most accessible and widely used tools to help communities understand and promote their urban tree resources. One of the original tools within the iTree suite of tools is Eco (formerly known as UFORE). The Eco program provides a broad picture of the urban forest in its entirety, including both publicly and privately owned trees. It is designed to use field data from complete inventories or sample inventories using randomly located plots throughout a community. The model also utilizes local hourly air pollution and meteorological data to quantify a community's urban forest structure and the related environmental effects and their associated monetary values. The following resource information and environmental services are provided with an Eco Analysis:

- Urban forest structure (e.g., species composition, tree health, leaf area, etc.)
- Amount of pollution removed hourly by the urban forest, and its associated percent air quality improvement throughout the year. Pollution removal is calculated for ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM10) and less than less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5).
- Total carbon stored and net carbon annually sequestered by the urban forest
- Effects of trees on building energy use and consequent effects on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants
- Annual rainfall interception rates and associated values
- Potential impact of insect and disease infestations (e.g. oak wilt, Dutch elm disease, and emerald ash borers)
- Structural or replacement value of the forest

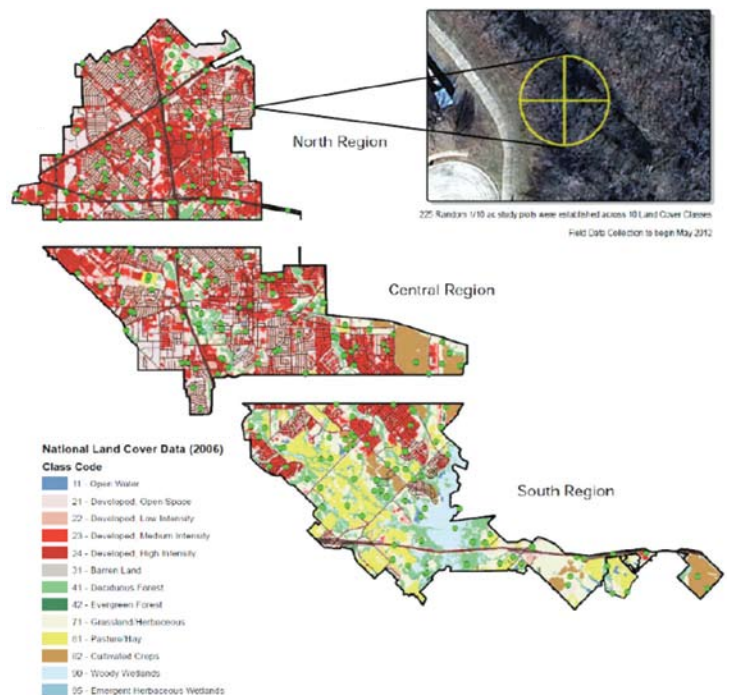
The City of Mesquite recently became only the third Texas community to complete an i-Eco study. The project results provide valuable resource information that will serve as the basis for an urban forestry master plan. The project also demonstrates the value of strong partnerships and cost effective planning. With a mix of in-house staff, Texas A&M Forest Service field assistance, and a hired urban forestry consultant, data collection was completed within 6 months. Regional Urban Forester for the Texas A&M Forest Service, Micah Pace, led a field data collection training for city staff and the consultant to ensure the most consistent data collection possible. Data was collected throughout the city on 225 randomly selected $1/10$ acre circular plots that were

pre-stratified across 13 land cover classes (e.g. high intensity development) and various local land use categories (e.g. single family residential) between April and September, 2012.

Key findings from the study are:

- Number of trees: 2,091,000
- Tree cover: 24.4%
- Most common species: sugarberry, green ash, and cedar elm
- Percentage of trees less than 6" (15.2 cm) diameter: 75.8%
- Pollution removal: 288 metric tons/year (\$1.54 million/year)
- Carbon storage: 145,000 metric tons (\$10.3 million)
- Carbon sequestration: 13,000 metric tons/year (\$927 thousand/year)
- Oxygen production: 31,900 tons/year (\$0/year)
- Building energy savings: \$773 thousand/year
- Avoided carbon emissions: \$108 thousand/year
- Annual rainfall interception: 30.2 million ft³/year (\$2.01 million/year)
- Structural values: \$996 million

For more information on i-Eco (or any of the iTree tools) please visit www.itreetools.org. To request more information on the Mesquite Urban Forest Ecosystem Analysis contact Travis Sales at tsales@cityofmesquite.com or Micah Pace at mpace@tfs.tamu.edu or access the full report online at: http://itreetools.org/resources/reports/Mesquite_Texas_EcoStudy2012.pdf. The Texas A&M Forest Service is available to help your community become the next city to conduct this exciting and valuable study. Contact us!



Study plot design for Mesquite Urban Forest Ecosystem Study

Volunteers Re-LEAF Arlington neighborhoods

by Matt Churches, City Forester, City of Arlington Parks and Recreation

April 3, 2012, is a date that will live in the hearts of Arlington residents for years to come. A tornado, producing winds in excess of 135mph, tore through Arlington, damaging more than 500 homes and apartments and causing massive damage to the natural environment.

Arlington residents directly affected by the devastation expressed their gratitude for the community and those who came to their aid during the crisis. "The city had a fantastic plan after the tornado. The police blocked off all the areas that anybody could potentially come into," said one Arlington resident. "We have lived here for 40 years, and I can't say enough about the city – they were fantastic."

Out of what looked like a "war-zone," citizens were aided by the Red Cross and local food vendors; however, many residents expressed that the hardest aspect of the damage was the damage to the environment. "We lost five trees from our property alone. We had a large post oak and the tornado uprooted it, and our kids had a tree fort in the back yard that was destroyed," said Arlington resident, Sam Shultz. "We think the worst thing to happen to us was the damage to the trees – that is the hardest part."

The massive loss of trees affected members of the Arlington community in multiple ways. Trees provide economic value to the city, air pollution removal,

energy savings, clean water, increased property values, and a natural habitat for animals. Since the tornado, the City of Arlington Parks and Recreation Department has been involved in a Tornado Re-LEAF program, in which citizens could partner with the parks department to receive free trees to plant in damaged neighborhoods.

Due to donations from The Arlington Tomorrow Foundation, Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse, and other local vendors, the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department and Keep

present in relief efforts for an ice storm in Texarkana in 2000, hurricane Rita in Beaumont in 2005, and then hurricane Ike in Galveston in 2008. "I have watched communities that are ravaged by natural disasters come back through the act of planting trees," said Smith. "That's the real power of the urban trees that we're planting."

As sponsors for the Tornado Re-LEAF program, the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation donated \$40,000, Lowes Home Improvement Warehouse donated \$15,000, Oncor donated

\$500, and local Starbucks and Krispy Kreme franchises donated breakfast to volunteers, to help make the Tornado ReLEAF Planting Event possible.

James Martin High School offered their west parking lot as a base for the event, and on Friday, November 9, 75 Martin High School students helped unload

the 1,000 trees and load trailers for distribution.

"You just look out around Arlington and you see the beautiful trees and you know how wonderful it is," said Kathryn Wilemon, Council Member for the City of Arlington. "We could never have this if we didn't have all these trees." On the morning of November 10, Wilemon spoke to 450 volunteers saying "I am so excited to see this crowd – you are representative of our city. Your efforts today will leave a



Arlington Beautiful hosted a Tornado Re-LEAF Planting Event on November 10. During the event, local government and community volunteers planted 1,000 trees, largely between Arkansas Lane and U.S. 287/Sublett Road and between Perkins and Kelly Elliott roads, to replace ones that were lost during the April tornado.

Pete Smith, Texas A&M Urban Forestry Program Analyst, has "a lot of experience in following natural disasters around the state." Smith was



Tree appraisal news

CTLA is working hard to incorporate reviewer comments in the proposed 10th Edition of the *Guide for Plant Appraisal*, so, at this time, publication is not expected until 2014 at the earliest. In the meantime, the current (9th) edition of the *Guide* recommends that regional tree cost data be updated on an annual basis.

The ISA Texas Board of Directors recently approved an updated unit tree cost of \$80.00 per square inch of trunk cross-sectional area for use with the trunk formula method on a statewide basis.

The new unit tree cost takes effect on January 1, 2013, and the "Texas Supplement to the Guide for Plant Appraisal – Third Approximation" has been revised to include the new cost information.

ISAT members may obtain a free copy of the revised "Texas Supplement" by calling the ISAT office at 979-324-1929, or by emailing isated@suddenlink.net. Non-members may purchase a copy of the revised "Texas Supplement" online at isatexas.com.

◀ Re-LEAF Arlington continued

legacy that this city will remember for years to come."

Mayor Robert Cluck volunteered at the event and also spoke to volunteers on Saturday morning. "When we needed help on that night our police and fire departments were there immediately, but for the next many days, our community was there for each other," he said. "We came together to help restore people's lives, and that's just the way we work."

Sam Schultz and his family of four have received three new trees on their property as a result of the planting event. "This is how we felt that whole week, people coming up just offering to help," said Schultz. "That's the way it should be, that's a community, and that's why we love living in Arlington."

From November 9–10, 525 volunteers donated an estimated 2,625 hours unloading, transporting, and planting 1,000 trees. The volunteer hours provided an estimated value of \$57,199 to the city. For more information, and for pictures taken at the event, please visit The City of Arlington Parks and Recreation Department's facebook page, or contact Keep Arlington Beautiful at 817-459-5477. ■

Chipper provides scary safety lesson

by James Tuttle, Certified Arborist

No matter how safe a company a person tries to run, there can always be something that is overlooked. In our business, these things can often be deadly. It is with a great deal of personal embarrassment that I feel a need to tell everyone about an incident that had a great potential to maim or kill someone. Perhaps you have had an incident similar to this. If so, you might be doing the same thing that I am, thanking God that only equipment got hurt.

We bought a new chipper and immediately took it out of town for too long. Not being familiar with that chipper, we took too long to change knives and had hell changing knives out in the field. I think we broke at least 4 cheap sockets before we gave up and chipped with dull knives until we got home. I really don't know how much that had to do with any of this, but it is what happened.

We got it to our shop and the mechanic finally got to work on the chipper. A few minutes later as I walked by he told me that he had heard something drop into the drum opening, that he was missing an extension and socket, that he had already looked for it and couldn't find it. We proceeded to look the machine over carefully, including opening the inspection cover below the drum. After much searching, I concluded he was mistaken and that the tool was lost somewhere else. He proceeded to finish changing the knife and took the chipper out in the yard to test on a bit of brush. Within seconds of beginning to chip, the extension and socket hit the back of the chip box, in pieces.

I had just left and didn't hear about it until the end of safety meeting the next morning. When I was shown the pieces, all I could do for three or four minutes was stand and say, "WOW . . . WOW . . . WOW . . . Thank you Lord!"

There were several ways to prevent this potential tragedy. We now have a new policy: NEVER work with tools above the opening of the chipper, keep a large magnet on hand to put tools on for safekeeping, and inventory tools before and after working on the chipper.

I also told the mechanic, the next time anything like this happens, if need be, throw me on the ground, stand on my chest, grab me by the lapel, whatever it takes to convince me that me being the boss is not more important than safety. Next time, I will also try to listen and believe.

Thinking outside the CRZ: A tree preservation tale

by Vincent Debrock, Manager-Principal, Heritage Tree Care, San Marcos

The commonly used concept of critical root zone (CRZ) is one of those tools that make communication between arborists, regulators, clients and other professionals easier. It provides the base on which we rely on to justify prescriptions, recommendations and guidelines. It is very tempting to systematically apply those clear cut concepts. But as Patrick Brewer in his “pitfall of diagnosis” article reminds us, falling into routine processes can cloud thinking.

A few years back, I was reminded how much I enjoy my work as a commercial arborist. Every tree is different, every job is different, and my training as an archaeologist and art historian serves me well in analyzing a site. However this project illustrated the dangers of only protecting a CRZ. It started as a classic preservation project with a historic home needing a large scale remodel. The site held three heritage-size post oak trees. Both contractor and owner told me they

needed extensive space. They also needed help through the preservation regulations as well as making sure that the trees survived. Luckily I was called as the builder started the project, before damage was done.

After reminding them that we were dealing with mature post oaks—in other words very sensitive trees—I set forth with the usual fencing, mulching, watering prescription. Quickly however, the owner modified the scope and the footprint expanded closer and closer to the largest oak on site. The grade needed to be changed, the footprint was meant to go inside half of the CRZ, piers and beams were planned, and my palms were sweating while I contemplated this massive post oak being more and more confined.

“My palms were sweating while I contemplated this massive post oak being more and more confined.”

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As I got familiar with the site I wondered why this particular tree seemed healthier than the other two, and I started looking for clues. The builder showed me an ancient (100 years+) underground cistern about 60 ft. away from the 30" oak. The cistern was 8 ft. diameter and at least 12 ft. deep. We were in severe drought at that time, and the cistern still held about a foot of water. Where it got interesting was when I noticed fibrous roots poking out of the cistern walls through the entire profile, with some plainly tapping water at the bottom. That is when I started questioning the builder about water on site and learned that they had a moisture problem with subsurface flows keeping an entire wall wet at all times, right between the house and the oak, where they were attempting to expand the footprint, but outside the CRZ. The cistern was next to the house, inside that proposed footprint, and there was talk of condemning the cistern. The correlation between the cistern and the tree's health was quickly made; although we were well outside the CRZ, the tree was totally reliant on the cistern's soft walls

collecting the surrounding moisture and subsurface flows. The cistern had become the focus of the tree preservation plan; it was kept and protected while we moved along designing the addition. Moisture barriers were planned for the addition, but no changes would be made to the subsurface flow, as we needed it to preserve the oak.

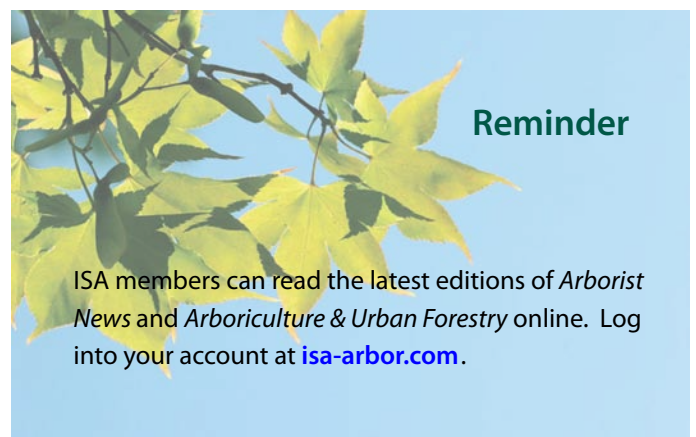
As the client, architect and builder were redefining the footprint, we had been on site for more than 6 months and the tree had benefitted from careful deep root feeding, mulching and deep watering inside a 20 ft. radius. To accommodate the client's requirement of space inside the CRZ, we decided to enrich the areas that would be preserved for landscaping close to the tree by air tilling and composting to bait roots and increase root density. We knew that it would take several months to implement changes, so that would give the tree time to adjust prior to impact. In the new design, the grade turned out to be trouble so we were forced to have a grade beam transecting half the CRZ at 13" deep. Not what we like to do. Air tool exploration did show, as I suspected, that the root density was very low and only two 1" diameter roots were cut over a 20 ft. grade beam; the roots were deeper. The exploration confirmed that we needed to preserve the link between the cistern and the tree but that this link was not going to be impacted by shallow air-excavated piers and the grade beam. The addition could go as planned.

Several years after the fact, The Oak is still doing well. As in all life sciences, things are not as cut and dry as arithmetic or mechanics. It is up to the practicing arborist to draw from every facet of his training and experience as well as all tools available to come up with a tree care plan to provide the best possible solution for the client. The CRZ is a concept and tool but it is just that. As all tools, it has the limitations of its user. As a bonus, the client and builder have experienced the advantage of having an arborist involved early on in the process. ■



Left: Cistern, with roots highlighted.

Below: Arrow points to cistern.



Reminder

ISA members can read the latest editions of *Arborist News* and *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* online. Log into your account at isa-arbor.com.

More thank-you notes for TTC scholarships

Here are a few more thank-you notes from people who attended the Texas Tree Conference on a scholarship provided by Texas A&M Forest Service.

1. Networking: Having been involved with TNLA for many years, first with Extension Horticulture and then as a landscape professional, I have a cadre of folks that I consider friends and am eager to catch up with and bounce ideas around. Now, having embraced the related tangent of arboriculture/ forestry/ urban forestry, I'm delighted to meet, get to know and network with a new branch of the agriculture family.
2. Pruning: Dr. Gilman's pruning presentation in both the Academy field presentations and during the conference were invaluable to me, and will help me go forward in rallying a Galveston Island Master Pruners Squad, GIMPS. :) Seriously, the need is great for such a group of citizen pruners considering the number of small trees we've planted in the last 3 years.

3. Marketing/Communicating: Paul Reis's presentation was an incredibly timely topic for me, as the Galveston Island Tree Conservancy is trying to convince the City of Galveston of the need to invest in themselves by replanting historic Broadway Avenue Esplanades.

4. Roots in containers: Todd Watson's field presentations about container-grown trees and circling roots was very helpful and I will pass this information on to contractors and to our volunteer planters. I think this will help with long term survival rates for newly planted trees on the Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Texas Tree Conference on scholarship – one of the best and most applicable conferences I've attended in a very long time!

Priscilla Files
Senior Arborist, Galveston Island Tree Conservancy



I would like to express my sincere gratitude for making my attendance to the Texas Tree Conference possible as a scholarship recipient. Being able to

attend has given me the opportunity to keep abreast with the latest techniques in the arboriculture world and learn the most up-to-date research and information related to our region. The wealth of information received in the conference is incommensurable and I feel lucky to be able to hear the lectures of scientists and colleagues from around the nation and the world.

More importantly I am eager to apply my learnings in the field. As a public servant working for the great City of San Antonio I'm able to use this information in the care of trees under my purview. I also feel that we have an obligation to spread this knowledge to our co-workers and also the general public. Once again, thank you for the opportunity.

Juan Guerra
Senior Horticulturalist, Downtown Operations
City of San Antonio



I want to take a moment to thank the TFS for graciously providing my scholarship to attend the Texas Tree Conference. What a boost to me... mind, body, and spirit! Superb lectures and demonstrations from the best of the best...all delivered in a relaxing atmosphere that makes learning a pleasure...meeting and networking with the top tree professionals in Texas...a top shelf conference without a doubt.

I think my favorite moments included:

- finally learning the whole Jekyll & Hyde story about hypoxylon canker and its ability to change from endophyte to pathogen with environmental stresses.
- becoming enlightened to the concepts of co-dominate leaders and root suberization.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL



ABOUT TORONTO?

Haven't decided yet about attending the ISA International Conference and Trade Show August 3-7 in Toronto? Here are a few fun facts to pique your interest.

- Toronto is the fifth largest city in North America, following Mexico City, New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago.
- There are 3 million publicly owned trees in Toronto.
- About 25 percent of films produced in Hollywood are actually filmed in Toronto, making it North America's third largest TV and movie production venue.
- Toronto's water source is Lake Ontario, the eighth largest freshwater lake in the world.

- the inspiring talk about trees and community that made me realize that tree programs can be effective avenues to positive social changes.
- watching Dr. Watson get down and dig like an armadillo to expose the buried root flare, intact wire basket, and other problems with a newly planted tree. This awesome demonstration told me that he not only knows his science, but the nuts and bolts of applying that science.

Thank you again for this great opportunity. I carry the knowledge and concepts learned at the 2012 Texas Tree Conference with me daily. I will never look at the trees around me the same way again.

Steven Chamblee
Horticulturist, Chandor Gardens
Weatherford



Thank you to Texas A&M Forest Service for the opportunity to attend the 2012 Texas Tree Academy and Conference in Waco. Without the generous scholarship award, I would have been unable to attend due to our very limited municipal budget.

I found the field demonstrations of this year's conference to be particularly useful. Dr. Hans (Williams) presented soil stress and limiting factors with such plain language expertise that it made me wish I had considered Stephen F. Austin during my college years.

Dr. Appel's disease quiz was very interesting and helpful. I hope it makes a return appearance in future sessions and is allotted more time for review and discussion.

Dr. Ed Gilman is on a level well beyond his years, but seems to avoid presenting in a way which might be over anyone's head. A great deal of knowledge is gleaned when he speaks and particularly when he demonstrates his methods in the field. He is always excellent.

Paul Ries was very engaging and remains one of my favorites from the conference. Following the conference, I have read numerous articles by Mr. Ries and feel that I have a better connection and style of communication when dealing with citizens.

Thanks to everyone involved with this year's conference, I thoroughly enjoyed my time and gained valuable information.

Craig Fox
Parks & Community Services Dept., Forestry Section
City of Fort Worth ■

What's the Big IDea?

Can you identify this native Texas species?



If you know this tree, correctly identify it on our facebook page. If you don't know it, check the page for the answer in a few days!

Hint: Holiday nog wouldn't be the same without it!



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

Last month's winner

Jennifer Hrobar, Urban Forestry Supervisor at UT Austin, correctly identified the November Big IDea tree as Texas ash, *Fraxinus texensis*.



Bajo la Sombra

Introducción a la poda de árboles *por Salvador Alemany MFS -*

Dasónomo Urbano Forestal de La Región del Valle del Río Grande Texas, Texas A & M Forest Service

El artículo es la primicia a una serie de escritos sobre la poda de los árboles con énfasis en la arboricultura y el manejo de árboles en las zonas urbanas.

Los árboles son plantas leñosas que proveen múltiples beneficios y están sometidos a prácticas continuas de poda. Principalmente en las zonas urbanas estos son podados por seguridad estética y salud. Si tomamos en cuenta que factores ambientales como el viento y los huracanes están constantemente afectando y podando los árboles, no debemos sorprendernos de que estos responden adecuadamente a la poda siempre y cuando mantengamos procedimientos adecuados al efectuar el proceso.

El desmoche es una de las prácticas que comúnmente observamos y la cual es perjudicial para la salud del árbol. Esta práctica consiste en reducir la copa y anchura de la copa del árbol y a su vez su tamaño eliminando la longitud de las ramas ascendentes y cortando en los entre nudos. Este proceso en muchos lugares se lleva a cabo anualmente. Al reducirse la copa del árbol al máximo y con el propósito de reponer su follaje el árbol secreta hormonas que estimulan la producción de múltiples rebrotes en las zonas afectadas, provocando un crecimiento epicórmico

descontrolado que afecta a largo plazo la estructura y salud del árbol. En muchos casos se produce la muerte desde la rama cortada hasta la rama lateral inferior siguiente. La unión de esos rebrotes con la rama o tronco principal es muy débil pudriéndose en muchos casos desde la unión que los conecta.

La poda generalmente debe llevarse a cabo manteniendo la integridad del árbol y por lo general nunca eliminar más del 20 a 25 por ciento

de la copa. Al concluir una poda el resultado no debe ser obvio al ojo de una persona no experta. De manera que la integridad del árbol se mantenga. Cabe recalcar que el follaje es crucial para la fotosíntesis y la producción de carbohidratos energía esencial para el crecimiento del árbol.

La poda incorrecta puede causar un deterioro del árbol y daños innecesarios como pudrición y desgarre de la



Fresno desmochado
práctica incorrecta
reducción total de su copa



Perdida de vigor,
producción excesiva
rebrote como resultado del
desmoche en un Fresno

◀ corteza. Los cortes lisos más allá del collar de la rama con el tronco reducirán el proceso de la compartimentalización y la formación de la callosidad o tejido cicatricial necesario y tan importante para la protección del árbol y así evitar la pudrición por vía de hongos que destruyen el cambium.

Los cortes dejando tocones retrasan el cierre de la herida creando un ambiente para hongos y patógenos que pueden pudrir la rama y hasta afectar la salud del árbol.

Antes de podar un árbol debemos establecer las razones y generalmente podemos agruparlos por razones de seguridad, salud y estética. La seguridad es importante sobre todo cuando la vida, salud pública y la integridad de la estructura física están en juego. En avenidas, calles y carreteras es importante eliminar los que



Encino en ciudad de Edinburg a el cual se le adelgazo la copa, note que la integridad del árbol quedo intacta. Foto de Ed Kuprel, Dasónomo Urbano de la Ciudad de Edinburg.

obstruyen la visibilidad, entrada y salida de vehículos e interferencia con líneas de servicio eléctrico público.

Las prácticas por motivos de salud del árbol implica la remoción de ramas y segmentos muertos podridos o en proceso de pudrición. También se persigue un adelgazamiento de la copa para mejorar el movimiento y circulación del aire a través de las ramas y reducir la fricción

entre ramas solapadas que se entrecruzan y muy cercanas. De esta forma producir una copa vigorosa con menos probabilidad a ser afectada por las inclemencias del tiempo, como vientos fuertes, granizadas y nevadas.

La poda por estética persigue exaltar las características naturales de la especie del árbol y fomentar en muchos casos la floración; esta es usada mayormente en especies siempre verdes y no tanto en especies caducifolias.

Ejemplo de desmoche práctica de poda no recomendada



Es importante conocer la forma natural de la especie del árbol que se va a podar y como la especie responde a la poda. Hay especies que su compartimentalización es muy pobre, por ende requieren de cierta atención y cuidado. En cambio otras producen crecimientos epicórmicos, o múltiples rebrotes que requieren frecuentes cortes futuros para seleccionar un líder. Entonces la poda es una labor de trabajo constante que persigue desarrollar la mejor estructura del árbol y su copa, manteniendo a su vez la integridad y estética deseada para cada árbol. ■

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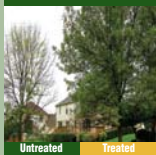
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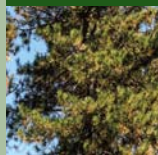
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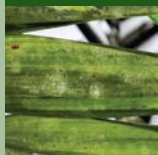


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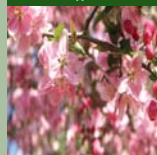
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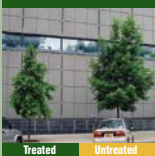
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