

In the shade



**ISA Texas
Board of Directors
2016**



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

Vol. 39, No. 5

January, 2016



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In the Shade

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ON THE COVER

Members of the ISA Texas Board
of Directors for 2016 at the
December Board retreat:

Front row (L-R): Nevic Donnelly,
Vincent Debrock, Gene Gehring,
Lara Schuman, Jim Carse.

2nd row (L-R): Michael Sultan,
Matt Churches, Nina Alexander,
April Rose, Matt Weaver.

Back row (L-R): Jim Dossett,
Markus Smith, Rebecca Johnson,
John Giedraitis.

Not pictured: Keith Brown, Micah
Pace, Matt Grubisich, Misti Perez.

Photo taken (with a timer) by
John Giedraitis.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Vincent Debrock



Happy New Year! I made a resolution to keep at my other resolutions as long as possible this year; we will see how that goes. Recently, your board attended the now traditional December retreat. As the past years, it was a great opportunity for new board members to delve into the nitty-gritty of running the chapter affairs.

2016 is going to be an exciting year for our chapter. If you do not know it yet, we are hosting the International Tree Climbing Championship in San Antonio this coming April and the International Tree Conference in Fort Worth this coming August. If you want to get involved or want more details, check our brand new website: we hope you will be impressed. Make sure to check some of the new features that we hope will help promote ISA Certified Arborists more, as part of a strategy that we are still shaping up. Yes, one of the commitments the board has made for this year is to look at how we can push for more certification recognition by the public, government entities and other professionals. It pays to be certified, and it pays to hire a Certified Arborist. Part of achieving this recognition is a commitment by all of us to our code of ethics and to the industry standards included with the certification: show the public why using trained arborists is better!

Even with all this happening, you will still see a diverse slate of workshops trough the year, culminating with a possible one-day mini conference in Waco in early October, paired with our annual membership meeting and installment of new Board of Directors.

The Awards ceremony will be held at the 2016 conference. Plan ahead to attend; it will be great! Plus our local conference chair, Jim Carse, is planning a cool party so we can still get our annual member networking on like during our regular annual conference.

Have a great Year!

Preach it!



NEW MEMBERS

Josh Schoonover . . .	J Custom Lands	Fort Worth
Jeffery Morris	Jeffs Tree Service	Lago Vista
Glen Murphy		Melissa
Francisco Rodriguez		Dallas
Raul Sanchez Jr.		Dallas
Jesus Vetencourt . . .	Wright Tree Service Inc	Austin
Russell Freeman . . .	Grove Landscapes	Austin
Travis Carpenter		Plano
Olivia LaMaster		Houston
Michael Suarez		Austin
Paul Carmella II		Fort Worth
David Menough		Houston
Jim Hamor	Jackson Electric Cooperative	Edna
Phillip Christian		Corpus Christi
Carlo Cruz50K Professional Lawn Services LLC	Austin
Keith Schnell		Marble Falls
Bethany Hansen		Murray, UT
Alexander Husby . . .	Benchmark Landscapes	Corpus Christi
Jesus Flores	Benchmark Tree Service	Forney
Cesar Guevara	City of Allen	Allen
David Madden	City Of Allen	Allen
Timothy Yurick		Houston
Kennedy Edmond . . .	ArborDocs, LLC	Allen
Marcelino Carpio SSC		Bryan

Arboriculture 101

This popular course returns January 14, 15, 21 and 22 at the Utilities Meeting & Training Facility, 1603 Graham Road, College Station. Instructor: Dr. W. Todd Watson

If you are preparing for the ISA Certified Arborist exam or TCIA's Tree Care Specialist credential, or want to improve your knowledge of trees, Arboriculture 101 offers an in-depth knowledge of urban trees and their care. The four-day course uses both lecture and hands-on instruction. Some participants may want to attend only 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 course will receive a certificate of completion.

For more information contact Margaret Spencer, Streamside Green, mhspencer@ymail.com

Nominate a True Professional

Every year, ISA is proud to honor those who have made significant contributions to the industry and have been role models or mentors for other tree care professionals. Details at

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/awardsPrograms/internationalAwards.aspx>

Happy Retirement, Oscar!

Oscar Mestas is retiring from the Texas A&M Forest Service after 25 years of service. Oscar was named Arborist of the Year for 2015 and was editor of *In the Shade* for four years. He will be honored at a retirement brunch in College Station later this month.

Congratulations, Misti and Joe

Misti and Joe Perez welcomed their baby boy, Koa Valentino Perez, on November 21, 2015, at North Austin Medical Center. He weighed 6lb 10oz and is 19" long, and is a happy, healthy little boy! Misti is Certification Liaison for ISA Texas.



Arbor Fair Exhibitors Wanted

Arbor Fair is an educational and fun event for the general public that will be held in conjunction with the International Tree Climbing Championship April 2 and 3 at Brackenridge Park in San Antonio. Arbor Fair will feature educational exhibits, information sessions, tree demonstrations, interactive children's activities, and much more.

We are looking for artists, non-profit organizations, educational organizations, or any vendors who would like to sell goods or provide educational information or activities for tree people, climbers, kids, or the general public. The booths are free, but in order to participate, interested parties need to apply. For more information contact Lara.Schuman@austintexas.gov



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EDITOR'S NOTE

by Rebecca Johnson



It's the beginning of a new year, a time when we all stop and take stock of the year past and the year to come. This year promises to be a very busy year for ISA Texas; our new Board of Directors members have jumped in with both feet and are busy planning fun and educational activities for the Chapter.

In this issue you'll get a glimpse of what we're planning for you, from new educational events to welcoming the rest of the world to Texas for two large ISA events: the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) in San Antonio in April and the ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show in Fort Worth in August. This is our chance to show off to the rest of the world and exhibit that famous Texas hospitality.

There are lots of ways for our membership to volunteer and engage. Kevin Bassett has put out a call for arborists to volunteer time to help prepare the trees in Brackenridge Park for the ITCC, various committee chairs are putting out the call for committee members and/or suggestions from the membership, we're putting out the call for volunteers at educational events, and of course, we're always looking for articles for our newsletter, whether written by our membership or gleaned from other publications. If you want to be involved, contact any one of the board members and we'll put you to work.

New Website

The long awaited new website for ISA Texas is now up and running. As of our deadline, content was still being added, but plenty of news and information is there with a fresh look and new features.

Check it out isatexas.com

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ISA Texas Board of Directors Retreat

by Matt Weaver, ISA Texas Board of Directors

In the fifth year since its inception, the annual board retreat took place once again at the grand Tonkaway Ranch in College Station. A big thanks to our hosts and everyone who made it happen! This was my first year attending as well as it being my first meeting with ISA Texas as a board member. It was a bit overwhelming to me at first as I stared down at the large binder full of organized material that I was somehow supposed to comprehend before it was all over.

When I realized a major part of the ‘retreat’ was getting the new board members up to speed with how ISA Texas operates and what is expected of the various committees, I could breathe a sigh of relief. Well, that didn’t last long, then guns started going off, literally!

This really is an exciting year to be a part of all of it. The biggest news of course, is the International Conference will be hosted in Fort Worth this year August 13-17, 2016! That’s right folks, no Waco this year. Well actually, the board discussed a ‘mini conference’ in Waco in October to provide a few more educational/CEU opportunities and host our annual public meeting; stay tuned for more information on this later.

Some of the other highlights that came out of the two-day event include:

- International Tree Climbing Championship along with Arbor Fair & Expo, April 1–3, 2016 in San Antonio
- Partnering with TFS on their Urban Forest Pest Management Cooperative Oak Wilt certification/qualification program development
- Future Master Series opportunities
- Hosting a ‘welcome party’ at the International Conference
- Discussion of TFA accrediting licensed foresters with possibility of a licensed arborist
- Approved funds to assist the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s Hall of Texas Heroes
- Partnering with TFS in the alpha test phase of the Texas Wildland Interface Fuel Mitigation Qualification for arborists
- Approved funds for marketing ISA Certified Arborists, and
- Approved the 2016 budget

The comradery, the beautiful sunset, the laughter, the amazing food (much of it cooked in an old school giant iron skillet), getting to know folks better and strengthening old friendships is what it’s all about, right? Then there’s the stuff I can’t share, “what happens at the retreat, stays at the retreat” sort

of thing. This is why you all need to become members and someday if the cards fall just right, you may share the opportunity to be a vital part of this prestigious board of ISA Texas! As we parted ways across the state, back to our ‘real’ jobs, I realized why it’s called a retreat. I wanted to stay there and retreat from the daily grind just a bit longer. I am truly grateful and excited about being on the board and part of this amazing group in the coming years! ■

See more Board Retreat photos on next page ►



UR CoR

by Michael Sultan

How much do you know about the ISA's Council of Representatives (CoR)? CoR supports ISA by acting as an advisory group to the ISA Board of Directors.

This group represents the interests of 58 Component organizations (the individual chapters, like ISA Texas, and professional affiliate organizations, like SMA) from 29 different countries. Through CoR, each Component has an opportunity to communicate concerns, initiatives, policies, and questions to the Board and within the Component network. CoR helps to maintain the important connection between the members and the ISA Board of Directors. The exchange of information between CoR members and the Components is accomplished by sharing information from monthly email blasts, CoR conference calls, and CoR meetings.

Communication within the CoR is facilitated through two annual conference calls, one physical meeting at the annual ISA conference, and the use of *intake forms*. The intake forms

provide an efficient way of gathering input from all 58 CoR members, while at the same time tracking CoR member participation. Each intake form is in a survey format to solicit feedback from CoR members about a particular topic or question. Recent intake forms have included bylaws that regulate filling vacant positions on the ISA board, gathering information for the ISA calendar to match Component events with available ISA representatives where requested, and gathering topics for the December 10 CoR conference call. The goal is for a minimum of 75% participation of CoR outreach efforts for 2015 (calls, surveys, annual meeting, etc.) from each Component. ISA Texas is 1 of 30 components to achieve 100 percent participation for 2015 intake forms.

In preparation for next year's annual CoR meeting in Fort Worth, the CoR Executive Committee has asked each CoR member to review the ISA's seven *Strategic Areas of Focus*, with a goal of identifying the single most important strategic area. The meeting will center around the particular goal identified as most important by all participating Components.

As ISA Texas members, you have two fellow members who serve on the CoR and who represent your interests – Paul Johnson and me. Paul is also a member of the CoR Executive Committee, representing the ISA Board of Directors. I was recently elected by our membership to serve a 3-year term as your ISA Texas CoR Liaison. Please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us with questions, comments, ideas or concerns that you would like us to share with the CoR Executive Committee. ■



ISA Texas Committees

Committee Name	Board Representative	Responsibilities
Finance	Keith Brown	The Treasurer is responsible for review of financial records and reports.
Newsletter	Rebecca Johnson	Editor of the bi-monthly ISA Texas <i>In the Shade</i> Newsletter.
Certification	Misti Perez, Liaison	Act as Chapter representative to Certification Board. Set dates and locations of exams. Secure CEUs for events.
Educational Events	April Rose	Coordinates working groups to develop annual calendar and implement events.
Council of Representatives	Michael Sultan, Liaison	Represent ISA Texas on the ISA CoR.
Membership	Matt Weaver	Increase and maintain memberships.
Publicity	Micah Pace	Promote Chapter events.
Awards	Vincent Debrock, Lara Schuman	Coordinate annual awards at Texas Tree Conference.
Texas Tree Climbing Championship	Kevin Bassett	Delivery of ISA Texas tree climbing competition.
Nominations	Markus Smith	Past President secures slate of nominees and coordinates election.
Arbor Day	Nina Alexander	Coordinate with TFS on statewide Arbor Day celebrations.
Research	Gene Gehring	Coordinate research per ISA Texas policy. Coordinate with Tree Fund including Tour de Trees.
Texas Tree Conference	Matt Churches	Secure 2017-2020 Convention Center and Hotel Contract. Coordinate committees to deliver the annual Tree Conference 2017 in Waco. Also select theme and pick logo.
Scholarships and Student Liaison	Matt Churches	Coordinate annual scholarships at TAMU, SFA and other institutions. Attend awards banquets and assist students to attend events.
Digital and Social Media	Matt Weaver	Coordinate ISA Texas Facebook and other digital and social media.
Legislation	Nina Alexander	Monitor legislation and report to the Board on any activity affecting tree care in Texas.
ISA Texas Bylaws	Full Board	Develop and maintain by-laws.
ISA Texas Policies and Procedures	Executive Committee	Develop and maintain policy and procedures.
2016 ISA Conference in Fort Worth	Jim Carse	Head local conference committee. Planning and organizing and coordinating efforts with the ISA conference and events planning staff. Appoint conference coordinators for the various sub-group committees.
2016 Arbor Fair	Lara Schumann	Head local Arbor Fair committee. Planning and organizing and coordinating efforts with the ISA conference and events planning staff. Appoint conference coordinators for the various sub-group committees.
2016 ITCC	Kevin Bassett	Head local ITCC committee. Planning and organizing and coordinating efforts with the ISA conference and events planning staff. Appoint conference coordinators for the various sub-group committees.

Houston Green Ambassadors awarded highest USDA honor

Going green can change the world, one community at a time. The mission to spread this message brought national recognition to the Green Ambassadors and Texas A&M Forest Service.

Green Ambassadors from the Latino Legacy program working on the Houston East End Greenbelt project received the 2015 Abraham Lincoln Honor Award for Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach, one of the United States Department of Agriculture's highest honors. Since 2007, Texas A&M Forest Service has worked with Latino Legacy, a nonprofit group that develops outreach and conservation education programs for Latino communities. Together they help remove barriers to underserved and culturally diverse communities by providing access to natural resource education and stewardship opportunities.

Comprised of high school and college students, the Green Ambassadors incorporate bilingual education and use mentors to connect diverse audiences to nature to become environmentally literate. The group helped transform their community of over 100,000 residents in the east end of Houston by planting and maintaining 100 fruit trees, and vegetable and pollinator gardens.

Several members of Green Ambassadors are currently pursuing higher education in natural resources and are poised to establish

careers with natural resource organizations. "My involvement with the Latino Legacy has turned into so much more than expected," said Andre Saenz, urban and community outreach program specialist. "This has forged a positive pathway for me to start working toward a forestry degree, which is something I never thought would be possible."

The Texas A&M Forest Service Outreach Team consists of John Warner, Andre Saenz, Ezequiel Villa Tapia, Alex Schuller, Dawn Vollmer McCook and Ben Plunkett. ■

—John Warner, Urban District Forester Texas A&M Forest Service



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ISA Texas Promotes Education at Home and Abroad

ISA Texas board member Micah Pace spent November fulfilling ISA Texas' main mission: education. On November 13 and 14, Micah was south of the border assisting our Mexican colleagues with their annual tree care conference. The Asociación Mexicana de Arboricultura



Micah arrives at Monterrey International Airport, where AMA staff were waiting to welcome him.



Micah presenting on Professional Urban Forest Inventories and Assessments at the University of Monterrey in Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

(AMA) held their 5th Annual Arboriculture and Urban Forestry Conference in Monterrey, Mexico in the state of Nuevo Leon. After receiving a request from AMA President, Dr. Daniel Rivas Torres, ISA Texas Executive Director John Giedraitis connected them with Micah, who agreed to support their event by providing a presentation on professional tree inventories and urban forestry management. Expenses were paid by the host chapter, AMA, with ISA Texas covering a few expenses not covered.

The annual multi-day event hosted 250 attendees on the campus of the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo Leon (UANL) in Monterrey, Mexico, sponsored by the Department of Biological Sciences. Micah was one of eight presenters on Friday, November 13, where presentations ranged from "Improving Urban Development through Use of Green Infrastructure," "Improving Communication of the Benefits of Urban Trees," "Planting and Managing Ceremonial Trees in Tropical and Semi-arid Regions," to the "Importance of Tree Architecture," and the "Use of Professional Urban Tree Inventories."

Presentations continued on Saturday, November 14, while the 4th Professional Tree Pruning Competition commenced outside on campus. Micah served as one of three international judges for the competition. The pruning competition is similar to the tree climbing competition we are accustomed to seeing here in the states, except instead of individuals completing specialized climbing techniques or tasks, the pruning competition is between teams of 3 to 5 members which must demonstrate a collective knowledge of their equipment, including use of climbing knots, work site safety and rescue, and the planning, communication, and implementation of a defined scope of work (SOW) for each team's respective tree. Judges visited with each team to inspect equipment and hear the team's SOW and then scored the team's pruning service utilizing a variety of categories for scoring. Awards were presented in the afternoon with Team Guadalajara winning 1st place. Conference attendees also had the option of attending Sunday's visit to the Municipal Nursery of San Vicente to learn about the production from seed to tree of urban trees in the city's nursery. ►



Mark Duff presenting at the West Texas Urban Forestry Council's Sun Country Landscape and Urban Forestry Conference at the University of Texas at El Paso.

On November 19 and 20, ISA Texas traveled west to support the West Texas Urban Forestry Council's annual Sun Country Landscape and Urban Forestry Conference on the campus of University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). ISA Texas agreed to cover expenses for bilingual tree experts and ISA Texas contributors Mark Duff and Micah Pace to travel to the conference to provide presentations in Spanish for a Hispanic tree worker workshop and in English at the main conference. Mark is staff forester IV with the Texas A&M Forest Service in San Antonio, and Micah is urban forestry specialist with Preservation Tree Service in Dallas. Through both Mark and Micah's participation, ISA Texas was able to support the education of over 100 attendees in an ever-growing region where professional arboriculture and urban forestry management are much needed.

ISA Texas has had another successful and busy year directly providing and indirectly promoting arboricultural education across the state and even internationally. We are committed to the continual advancement of our profession across our great diverse state and across the globe wherever we can. We'll see you and all our colleagues at the ISA International Conference in Fort Worth! ■

—Micah Pace, Urban Forestry Specialist, Preservation Tree



4th Professional Tree Pruning Competition, Monterrey, Mexico.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting, Houston Area Urban Forestry Council

January 12

Location: Saint Arnold Brewery, Houston. Time: 6–9 pm. haufc.org

Arboriculture 101

January 14, 15, 21 and 22

Location: Utilities Meeting & Training Facility, 1603 Graham Road, College Station. Instructor: Dr. W. Todd Watson For more information contact Margaret Spencer, Streamside Green, mhspencer@gmail.com



Work Day for ITCC

February 6

Mandatory gear inspection, safety meeting and pruning review for all who participate. CEUs for the educational portion. To volunteer contact Kevin Bassett at kbassett@arborillogical.com or 972-877-0358.



9th Annual HAUFC Regional Tree Planting Competition

February 13 (rain date February 20)

Location: HCFCD Retention Basin, 7600 block of W. Little York, Houston. Time: 10 am. Guidelines and registration information at haufc.org

Root for Conroe Arbor Day 2016 Celebration!

February 20

Location: Founder's Plaza, N. Main St. and Metcalf St., downtown Conroe. Time: 9 am to noon. Free Texas native trees—containerized and bare root species—will be given away. Experts including ISA Texas arborists will give free advice on growing trees, shrubs and plants. Live demonstrations on pruning and tree care. For more information contact John Warner, Texas A&M Forest Service, jwarner@tfs.tamu.edu

2016 SMA Intern Program

Application deadline: March 1

The Society of Municipal Arborists' intern program has been expanded to include utility and nonprofit experience in addition to municipal forestry. Students gain hands-on experience working alongside practicing professionals. To download a program flyer, student application, or host city application, visit www.urban-forestry.com



2016 International Tree Climbing Championship, Arbor Fair & Expo

ITCC: April 2–3

Location: Brackenridge Park, San Antonio.

The world's greatest climbers compete for the title of World Champion. More at <http://www.itcc-isa.com/events/itcc/itcc.aspx>

Expo: April 1–3

Location: Brackenridge Park, San Antonio.

Outdoor trade show featuring the latest in industry equipment. Link to vendor application at <http://www.itcc-isa.com/events/itcc/arborfair.aspx>

Arbor Fair: April 2–3

Location: Brackenridge Park, San Antonio.

Events and exhibits for all ages. Contact Lara.Schuman@austintexas.gov.

More info at <http://www.itcc-isa.com/events/itcc/arborfair.aspx>.

Hurry, vendor space is limited. To participate in the 2016 Arbor Fair and Expo, please download an agreement and submit it by **March 11**.

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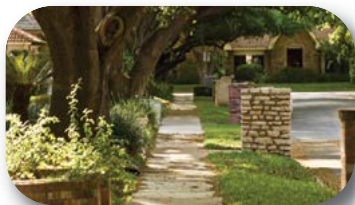
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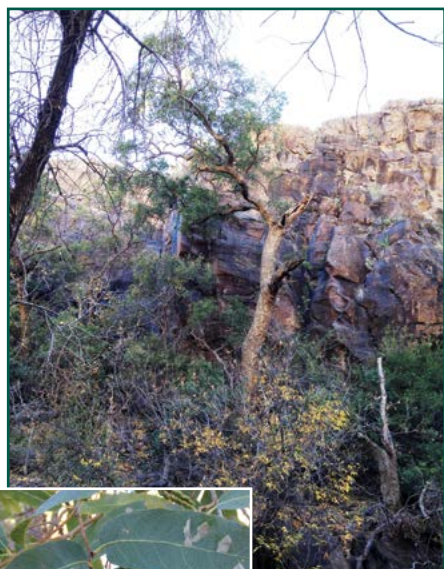


8th International Oak Society conference

by Vincent Debrock

The International Oak Society or IOS (www.internationaloaksociety.org) has organized triennial conferences in different countries since 1994. Founded by a group of folks at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, they focus on a most cherished species. This year, the conference was at the Morton Arboretum from October 18 to 21. I was lucky to attend with my associate Jeovanny Medina. Also from Texas was Andrew McNeil-Marshall, LBJ Wildflower Center arborist. Andrew was representing the Texas Arboretum that he manages.

The speakers and attendants were an incredibly diverse and knowledgeable group of enthusiasts and experts. The program itself was very diverse, including ethnobotany, ecology, propagation, phylogeny, updates by several groups on conservation and study of oaks from all around the world, and more. They even organized a seed exchange event and of course a tour of the incredible collection of oaks of the Arboretum, and many other workshops.



Mexican blue oak

Quercus oblongifolia

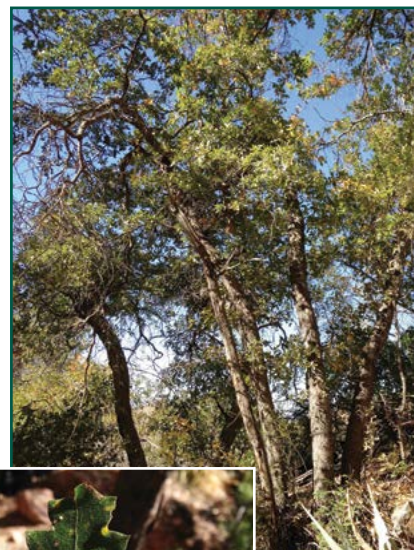
Madrid Falls,
Big Bend Ranch
State Park

Some of the presentations that particularly piqued my interest include “A Tough Little Survivor: The West Texas Oak, *Quercus hinckleyi*,” which examined a small population remnant. This was an interesting look at pockets of a rare oak and its genetic make-up and was matched by Min Deng’s “Conservation and Micropropagation of a Rare Oak, *Quercus arbutifolia*, in South China Montane Cloud Forests.”

“Drought Tolerance and Climatic Distributions of the American Oaks” had my interest, obviously, and was a good refresher of adaptation strategies of oaks and a reminder of how and why the oak species range is so widespread and handles various climates.

The excellent and packed presentation by IOS president Beatrice Chasse, “Eating Acorns: What Story Do the Distant, Far, and Near Past Tell Us, and Why?” was a refreshing and very deep look at the archaeology and history of balanoculture (acorn-eating cultures) and a real eye opener for many.

The program contained very technical, if not esoteric, information to the neophytes that most of us are, including presentations on nomenclature and genetics, like “Progress in Ex Situ Conservation of *Quercus* spp. by Cryopreserving Embryonic Axes.” These are an essential part of the IOS work, and made the presentation by Maricela Rodríguez-Acosta, director of the Botanical Garden at the University of Puebla, Mexico, very refreshing. She presented her extensive collection of attractive and original Mexican oaks. Did you know that Mexico hosts more than 90 oak species? And that Texas has more than 40 currently documented, which is more than many other states or countries? Speaking of diversity and nomenclature, Antonio González-Rodríguez (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) with “Hybridizing But Not Merging: Dynamics and Outcomes of Interspecific Gene Flow Between Two Mexican Red Oaks”



Vasey oak
Quercus pungens var.
vaseyana
Big Bend

showed a good case study of how the famously promiscuous oaks can mix up, down to the gene count!

One of the presentations showed data on how oak trees offer the best value in **ecosystem services**. It might not hold the record as the largest tree, or the longest lived, but it is the most resilient and adaptive. This is why I believe it is the most suited for green infrastructure in drought prone climates.

Through this conference, the overall theme for me is what a lot of us instinctively already know through our field experience: the oak is the king of many ecosystems. The title of William Bryant Logan’s book, *Oak, the Frame of Civilization* (required reading) says it very well.

On a last note, look soon for the *Illustrated Guide to Oaks* by Antoine le Hardy de Beaulieu & Thierry Lamant, freshly translated from French and to be published in late 2016 (pre-order at www.edilens.com) and certainly slated to become the illustrated reference on oaks. ■

Photos provided by Oscar Mestas.



From Famous Trees to State Arbor Day:

TFS Celebrates 100 Years

by Gretchen Riley, Staff Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service

For the past century Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) has been monitoring the forests to improve health and productivity; working with communities to plant, care for, and conserve the trees where people live, work, and play; and informing and educating landowners on sustainable land management practices.

Created by the Texas Legislature in 1915 to protect and conserve the state's trees, forests, and related natural resources, TFS celebrated its centennial anniversary throughout 2015 in ways that both reflect on its past 100 years as an agency and look forward to the next 100 years.

The centennial celebration kicked off in early 2015 as the agency was recognized at the annual Texas A&M AgriLife Conference, the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents meeting, and by the Texas Legislature. Also early in the year, the agency released *Famous Trees of Texas: TFS Centennial Edition*, which tells the stories of 100 famous trees that have witnessed exciting events or eras in Texas' history.

TFS partnered with the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum to host an exhibit highlighting the agency's first 100 years. Considered one of the Library's most popular, the exhibit displayed from March–November and included a fire tower, life-size trees, and numerous artifacts and photos related to Texas forestry.

In October, TFS distributed over 15,000 trees across the state through two campaigns. The first, A Tree for Every County, partnered with 4H clubs to plant a commemorative tree in each county. An additional 5,000 seedlings were given away to participants. Texas' Tree City USA communities were given first chance to register for the second campaign, 100 Trees for 100 Cities, which provided 10,000 trees to help cities grow their community forest.

Capping off the Centennial year, Texas Arbor Day—the first Friday in November—was celebrated in College Station at the George Bush Presidential Library. Sponsored in part by ISA Texas and Texas Forestry Association, the state Arbor Day celebration is held in a different city each year (coming soon: how to apply to host State Arbor Day).

This year 1,000 seedlings were given away and a commemorative tree, donated by Apache Corporation, was planted on the grounds of the Library. State Representative John Raney presented the proclamation to TFS Director and State Forester, Tom Boggus, and kindergarten classes from Brazos Christian Academy entertained the audience with songs and poetry. In his keynote address—peppered by cheers from kindergarteners cued by the phrase “Trees are Cool”—Boggus said the engaging presentation by the children should remind us all that conserving and protecting the state's trees and forests is critical so that their benefits can be enjoyed future generations, into the next 100 years and beyond. ■

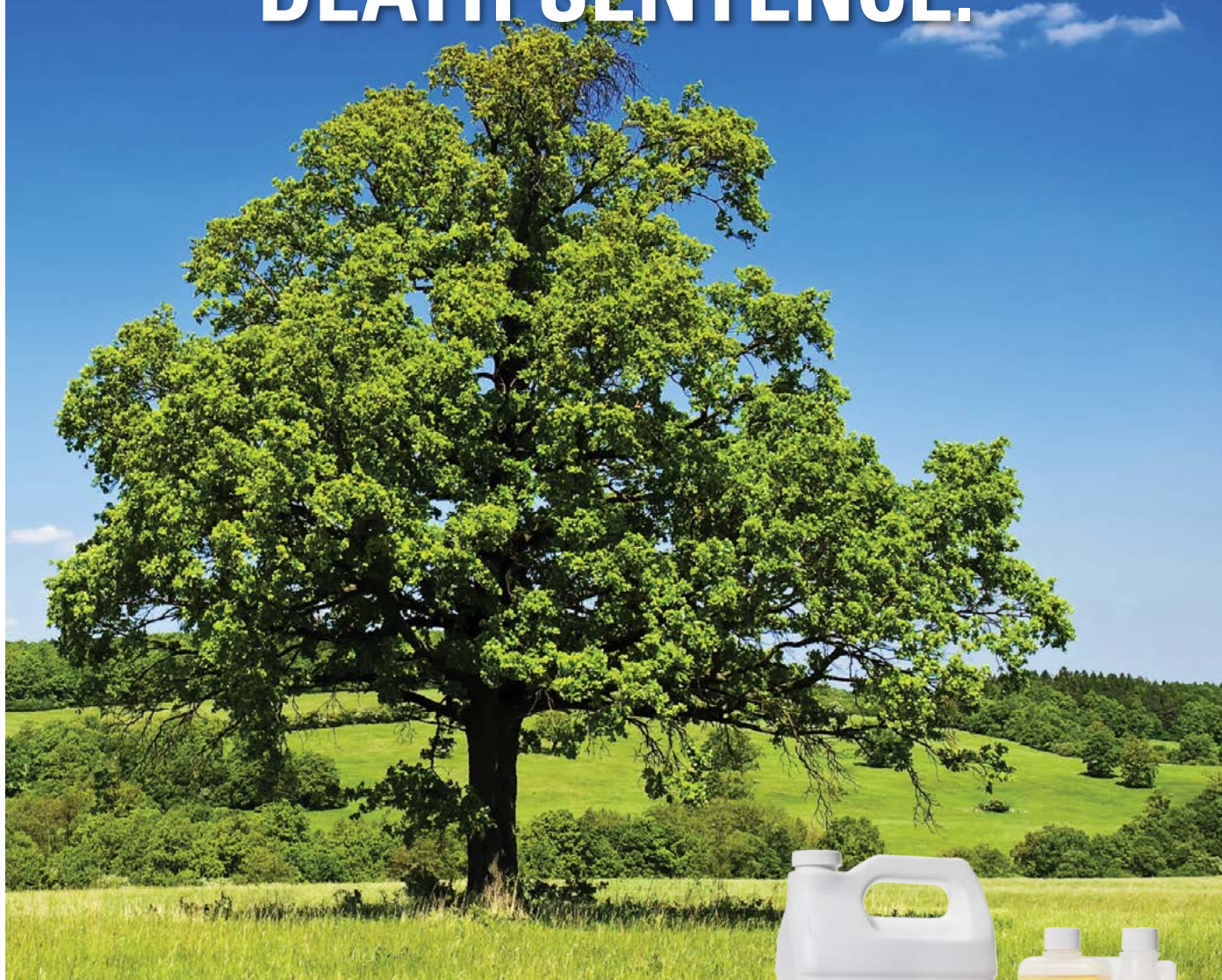
Top: Sample seedlings for “100 Trees for 100 Cities” campaign

Middle: Gretchen Riley hands out seedlings to kids

Bottom: Kindergartners perform at Arbor Day celebration



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Educational Events:

Closing out 2015 with Tree Risk Assessment and Communication

by Lara Schuman, president elect, ISA Texas

We wrapped up another year of workshops and trainings with two great events in Austin in November. We were able to entice Skip Kincaid, commissioner of forestry for the City of St. Louis, back to Texas to teach another Tree Risk Assessment Qualification class. We also tried something new this year. We held our first ever Masters Series Class geared towards municipal arborists. Ken Martlage, founding principal with NextTier Advisors in Indianapolis, Indiana, led a Communication, Trust, and Self-Awareness workshop. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center provided a beautiful backdrop for both of these events.

As usual, the TRAQ course filled up almost as soon as it was posted. As the educational events committee chair, I was lucky enough to get to assist Skip during the training, and even though I've already gone through the course, I learned a lot. He is an amazing teacher and an all-around good guy. We always get really good feedback from his students, and this time was no different. Not only did we have people attend this training from all over the state, but we even had an arborist come all the way from Mexico! Participants spent two days engrossed in tree risk, with both indoor and outdoor sessions. They ended up having to assess a tree in the rain for their test, but a little rain never stopped a good arborist. This is one of the best trainings in arboriculture I've gone through, and if you haven't had a chance to do it yourself, I highly recommend it. We will be offering at least a couple of TRAQ trainings again in 2016, so keep an eye out for registration information.

For many years we have held Masters Series workshops geared towards commercial arboriculture. This year we decided to offer something for our municipal arborists. Last year I

attended the ISA Leadership Workshop in Champaign, Illinois, where I heard Ken Martlage speak about communication. It was such good information that I was eager to bring him down to Texas to share his knowledge with our chapter members. He put together a one-day workshop where he discussed improving communication with customers, partner groups, citizens, or pretty much anyone with whom we interact, by increasing our awareness of our different personality types and backgrounds and how these play in to our perception of others' intentions. He spent quite a bit of time discussing his trademarked term, "Mischief," which are the problems that occur when two people misunderstand each other's intentions, and how building trust is essential in improving our relationships and communications. ►

Above: TRAQ class

Below: Communications workshop



◀ I don't know about your workplace, but there tends to be quite a bit of this type of mischief going on at the City of Austin! My favorite part was playing Win as Much as You Can, a game that makes you think deeper about common goals and the importance of working together. Overall it was a great workshop, and will hopefully be the first of many such educational opportunities for our municipal arborists.

The ISA Texas board met for our annual retreat in December to start planning for next year. We are very lucky to be the 2016 hosts for the International Conference, Trade Show, and Climbing Championship. We are working with ISA to provide the best speakers and educational opportunities as part of these events. We will also be planning our own chapter educational workshops for the year. So if there is a topic or a speaker you would really like to hear, please let us know. After all, this is really all about providing the resources you need to improve yourself, your businesses and your career in arboriculture. ■

Coming soon: More great educational events

The educational events committee recently met, and we are working on a full slate of workshops and trainings including Biomechanics in March, Certified Tree Worker Training in March, and Oak Wilt ID and Management in June. We plan to bring TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) back to Texas and we are also exploring a Texas Wildland Interface Fuel Mitigation Qualification curriculum that may be a good fit for our members. We also have a one-day "mini-con" in Waco planned for early October. We have both Master's level and basic level courses planned to meet the needs of all our members.

There is a survey in the works so that we can learn more about the kind of training and professional development you need. If you would like to help develop the survey please let me know. We also need volunteers at educational events all over the state so if you can step up to show our guest speakers and attendees hospitality please let me know.

—April Rose, Educational Events Committee Chair, aprilrose@gmail.com



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ITCC Update

The ISA Texas Chapter is looking forward to hosting the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) and Arbor Fair & Expo April 1-3 in San Antonio's Brackenridge Park.

ISA and ISA Texas are recruiting vendors and exhibitors for both the Arbor Expo and the Arbor Fair. The Arbor Expo is for industry vendors, while the Arbor Fair is for educational booths and smaller arts & crafts vendors. To find out more about having a booth at either the Arbor Fair or the Arbor Expo go to <http://www.itcc-isa.com/events/itcc/arborfair.aspx>. Contact Lara Schuman at Lara.Schuman@austintexas.gov if you have suggestions for educational booths or artisans who might be interested in selling their work.

As a reminder, we've scheduled a work day to help get the trees ready for the ITCC. It's set for Saturday, February 6. To volunteer contact Kevin Bassett at kbassett@arborillogical.com or 972-877-0358. There will be a mandatory gear inspection, safety meeting and pruning review for all who participate. CEUs for the educational portion of the meeting, lunch and an event t-shirt will be provided.

We're looking forward to hosting this exciting event. Be sure to come out and watch the world's best climbers compete for the title!

2016 ITCC TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Times still to be determined and information subject to change. Detailed schedule coming soon.

Thursday, 31 March

Event set-up (Brackenridge Park)

Climber and Volunteer Check-In (*Location to be determined*)

Gear Inspection Meeting (*Location to be determined*)

Friday, 1 April

ITCC Climber Walk-Through and Gear Inspection
(Brackenridge Park)

Arbor Expo (Brackenridge Park)

Educational Workshops (Brackenridge Park)

Saturday, 2 April

ITCC Masters' Qualifying Events (Brackenridge Park)

Arbor Fair and Expo (Brackenridge Park)

ITCC Awards Ceremony (*Location to be determined*)

Educational Workshops (Brackenridge Park)

Sunday, 3 April

ITCC Men's Masters' Challenge (Brackenridge Park)

Arbor Fair and Expo (Brackenridge Park)

ITCC Women's Masters' Challenge (Brackenridge Park)

Head-to-Head Footlock (Brackenridge Park)

ITCC Celebration Reception (*Location to be determined*)

Educational Workshops (Brackenridge Park)

Monday, 4 April

ITCC Annual Meeting for Competitors, Volunteers, and Committee (*Location to be determined*)



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Photo: Brian Bixler. Arborist: J. David Driver (the X man).

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