

NEWSLETTER OF
THE ISA TEXAS
CHAPTER



Vol. 40, No. 5
January, 2017

In the Shade



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In the Shade

is published six times a year
by the Texas Chapter,
International Society
of Arboriculture.

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ON THE COVER

Last fall the City of Nacogdoches celebrated Texas Arbor Day along with its own tricentennial. (The town is considered the oldest city in Texas—older than the state itself.)

A Tree City USA, Nacogdoches was also recently named the Garden Capital of Texas by the state legislature.

At the Arbor Day celebration, school children helped the Garden Capital of Texas Committee ceremonially plant a tree donated by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The tree is an offspring of the most famous Texas Tree—the Treaty Oak.

Photo courtesy of Texas A&M Forest Service.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Lara Schuman



Well, we have another year behind us, and boy was it a doozy! The ISA Texas Board of Directors had a lot on our plate this year, and so did the City of Austin's Urban Forestry Program. I feel like 2016 just flew by!

It seems like we had been planning for the International Tree Climbing Championship and Annual Tree Conference to come to Texas forever. I'm really proud to say that both of these events went really well, and I think we did a great job of showing the world true Texas hospitality. Now that these events are behind us, we on the board are turning our attentions back to our Texas chapter issues. We have a really good group of people on the board this year, with lots of passion to bring new and interesting opportunities for continuing education to our members, and to work towards improving the practice of arboriculture in our state.

This year we are looking into ways to work with other professionals outside of the arborist community, like landscapers and architects, to improve the quality of our landscape designs and the trees that are planted. We are also working with the Texas A&M Forest Service to develop a new program to qualify arborists to provide consultation service to clients and their communities about managing trees and vegetation to help mitigate the risk of wildfire. We hope to roll out a new training program for this within the year. Be on the lookout for more continuing education opportunities for utility arborists as well. One really exciting workshop in development will target women tree climbers! Not only is the board busy planning all of this, but we are also working to improve the governance of the Board of Directors itself, and to create a better way for anyone who'd like to volunteer to find opportunities that interest them and take advantage of the wide array of skill sets we have in our membership.

When I'm not wearing my ISA Texas hat, I spend my days managing the trees in the City of Austin's parks. We have an estimated 300,000 trees in our "managed" areas of parkland! This doesn't include all of the trees in the greenbelts, nature preserves, or little wooded corners of parks. It is no small task, especially given the fact that we only have 12 people on our tree maintenance crew.

How do I know that we have that many trees, you ask? Well, Austin was lucky enough to be the first city to have an Urban Forestry Inventory and Analysis (UFIA) completed by the US Forest Service and the Texas A&M Forest Service. This UFIA uses sample plots to inventory trees in urban areas, and then analyzes the data to determine the benefits and services those trees provide to the community. They've developed an app to make it easy for anyone to explore this data, and from this you can learn all sorts of interesting stuff. For instance, we learned that of the approximately 33.9 million trees in the City of Austin, the three most abundant species—Ashe juniper, cedar elm, and live oak—make up 61% of the population. I'm thinking that means we need to start putting some serious efforts towards diversification! We also found out that 57% of the trees in Austin's urban forest are on public land. This isn't common in municipalities, and means that my fellow urban foresters and I have a really big responsibility on our hands.

The analysis showed that our urban forest is worth approximately \$16 billion dollars, helps to prevent 65 million cubic feet of storm water runoff per year, and removes 1,253 tons of pollution from the air every year! If you would like to explore this data and see all of the cities they are currently working to inventory, check out the app: <http://tfsfrd.tamu.edu/mycitystrees>.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of the board members if you have questions about what's going on, have requests for specific educational workshops, or would like to volunteer. I look forward to working with and for all of you over the next year. Happy New Year! ■

ISA Texas plans new educational opportunities . . . and you can help!

by Emily King, ISA Texas vice president

As the new year gets underway, now is the time to look forward with optimism for potential opportunities in our personal and professional lives. Continuing education in Texas for those who touch trees is a cornerstone of the mission of ISA Texas. Your chapter is gearing up to bring in high quality speakers and topics that are relevant to you. The list of potential offerings is long; some highlights include Oak Wilt Qualification, Lone Star Tree Appraisal Workshop, and a Women's Tree Climbing Workshop.

Consider now the idea that you stand to get more from the chapter's workshops and conference than Continuing Education Units . . . bear with me . . . I'd like to humbly suggest that you contemplate joining the amazing crew of volunteers to make more educational events happen. Folks that step up, jump in, dig in (pick your action!) to volunteer with ISA Texas gain more than they give, and they do give a lot.

There are volunteer openings for any skill level, time availability, and interest. Would you like to beef up your planning skills by helping coordinate workshop logistics? Interested in moderating for speakers or serving as an on-site host for an event? Maybe you'd like to help raise money for research by organizing the conference's silent auction?

The bottom line is that if you have two hours of time or 20 hours over the course of a year, there are good people who would be happy to help you figure out where to fit into our largely volunteer-run organization. Sharpen skills and expand your network. Operators are standing by.

Please contact me at Emily.King@AustinTexas.gov for more information. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE by Rebecca Johnson



This is the time of year where we all take stock; we look at the year past and then plan how to make the upcoming year better. We try to plan to utilize our time more productively, be more healthy, and perhaps a bit more wealthy.

My goals this year include continuing to get new professional qualifications and certifications. As members of ISA Texas, we have access to amazing training opportunities organized by our education committee and various subcommittees. I'm especially interested in the Oak Wilt Qualification that our chapter offers. The subcommittee has put in a lot of work redesigning the training materials and setting up courses. I'm also interested in the upcoming launch of a wildfire mitigation qualification. This is a totally new qualification that we're hoping to launch early this year (watch your TreEmail for more details).

But I'm not limiting myself to just earning new qualifications and certifications. I also plan to better develop my current skills. I'm really looking forward to Paul Ries' "Out of the Bark" workshop this month (see page 11 for an article by Paul that will give you a sneak peek of the workshop). Sometimes we focus so much on the hard skills we need (insect and disease identification, tree risk assessment, etc.) that we forget to focus on the "soft" skills like customer service and communication. While it's very important to have the hard skills, they can be ineffective if we don't communicate well with our customers.

What are your goals this year? Why not pop over to our Facebook page (facebook.com/ISATexas/) and let us know? We'd especially like to hear about ways we can help you meet your goals. ■



ISA Texas board members attended the ISA Leadership Workshop this past October. Pictured here are (l to r) John Giedraitis, executive director; Emily King, ISA Texas vice president; Rebecca Johnson, ISA Texas editor; and Paul Johnson, ISA vice president. Not pictured are April Rose, ISA Texas board member, and Michael Sultan, ISA Texas CoR representative.

Urban forestry—in the City of Dallas?

by Steve Houser and Bill Seaman, Trustees, Texas Historic Tree Coalition (TXHTC)

A Department of Urban Forestry in the City of Dallas—are you kidding? Dallas is not known for being a tree-friendly city, but with years of citizen persistence, Dallas has established a division of urban forestry! As you can imagine, those who have pushed for so many years are still dancing in the streets!

What does it take to change a pro-development, “keep the dirt flying” city? Persistence and a belief that if you push hard enough on a rock for a long time, it will eventually move. Being a group of stubborn, hard headed, pain-in-the-arse volunteers...helps as well. The history of events leading to this accomplishment is long and somewhat contorted.

In 1986, the City of Dallas approved a landscape ordinance, and in 1994, a tree ordinance was passed and added to the Dallas development codes. A chief arborist and two staff arborists were hired for enforcement. Unfortunately, the tree ordinance allowed, and continues to allow all trees to be removed from a site, requiring mitigation (or replacement) only for top-rated tree species.

In 1995, a local hospital wanted to remove 70 large old trees, including two very large bur oaks. A significant number of people took exception to the plans and formed the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition to oppose the project and encourage the preservation of trees. It was the first major public battle over trees in Dallas and the coalition purchased two full-page ads in the *Dallas Morning News*, put up billboards around the hospital, hired a hospital architect to review the plans, and ultimately preserved two-thirds of the trees, including the two big bur oaks. It was the first of a great number of battles over trees that persist to this day.

In 2004, the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition (now the Texas Historic Tree Coalition) successfully lobbied the city and the Texas A&M Forest Service for assistance in hiring Dallas’ first urban forester. In 2005, the Texas Historic Tree Coalition

successfully lobbied the city to establish the City of Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee (UFAC) as a permanent and integral part of city government. UFAC serves in an advisory capacity on matters of environmental stewardship, specifically concerning the urban forest by advocating sound arboricultural and forest management practices. The group of volunteer professionals provide proactive leadership for the development of public policy and serve to educate the public about the many benefits of a thriving urban forest.

In 2008, the city’s Quality of Life Committee, which contains half of the city council, was briefed on many tree and forestry related subjects, including the dire need for an urban forestry department. The city council committee requested another briefing on how a new forestry division would fit into city government. UFAC met with all the council members on the committee, and all but one agreed to support the effort. It took a number of months to get back on the agenda in

2009. The city’s Park Department director and assistant director, along with UFAC provided a presentation. Unfortunately, the economy was taking a downturn and the council turned down the request.

Being persistent little buggers, UFAC started lobbying the city council again in 2015 calling for a division or department of urban forestry. Unlike before, UFAC’s recommendations received significant support. UFAC

members were apprehensive, having been stung in the past, but they briefed the Quality of Life Committee again in early 2016. The full council was briefed in August of 2016 and the effort received unanimous support.

Shock and awe would describe our response. UFAC started to celebrate until we realized the division could still be cut from the budget before its approval in October. UFAC members collectively held our breath and contained our celebrations—until the budget item *was* approved in October. Back to dancing in the streets—with our safety vests on, of course. ■



Texas and New Mexico arborists form new group

by James Tuttle

Inspired by the success of other Texas arborist associations and compelled by the local need, a small group of arborists from Midland and Odessa have come together to form the SouthWest Arborist Guild (SWAG). The geographical area intended to be served is approximately the southwest third of Texas and southeast third of New Mexico.

SWAG has just completed its first ISA arborist exam preparation course. The class met every Friday afternoon for six weeks to work through ISA's Arborists' Certification Study Guide. Among the 24 class registrants were SWAG president Jody Hughes, SWAG treasurer, Mark Walter, area AgriLife Extension agents, landscape industry professionals, Midland Independent School District employees, master gardener volunteers and the executive director of Keep Midland Beautiful.

At the conclusion of the course, three trainees sat for the written exam, administered by former ISA Texas board member Terry Kirkland of Midland College. They will soon be notified if they are newly certified arborists. Several other participants reported they would test at a later date. Mark Walter completed the computer-based version of the exam and has already learned that he passed with flying colors.

SWAG is open to professional arborists and others working in closely related fields such as city planners, landscape architects and lawn service employees. To join SWAG or learn more, please contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office in Midland at 432-498-4071. ■

Thinking Outside the Bark: Increasing Your Influence and Impact as a Natural Resource Professional

Do you ever feel “stuck” at work? Are you looking for ways to expand your capacity to be more effective, or more influential in what you do? This interactive, one-day training session with Paul D. Reis will help natural resource professionals learn how to “expand the possible” at work or in their work/life balance.

Paul D. Ries has 30 years of urban forestry and natural resources experience. He currently teaches college level urban forestry courses and directs an online graduate certificate program in urban forestry. He is president-elect of the International Society of Arboriculture.

The training will be offered January 24 in Dallas and January 26 in the Austin area. Details at ISATexas.com/events. ■



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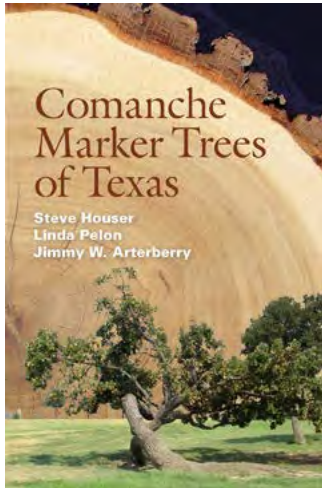
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UOS FORESTRY

Arborist, anthropologist, and tribal officer collaborate on *Comanche Marker Trees of Texas*

In an unprecedented effort to gather and share knowledge of the Native American practice of creating, designating, and making use of marker trees, an arborist, an anthropologist, and a Comanche tribal officer have merged their wisdom, research, and years of personal experience to create *Comanche Marker Trees of Texas*.



A genuine marker tree is a rare find—only six of these natural and cultural treasures have been officially documented in Texas and recognized by the Comanche Nation. The latter third of the book highlights the characteristics of these six marker trees and gives an up-to-date history of each, displaying beautiful photographs of these long-standing, misshapen, controversial symbols that have withstood the tests of time and

human activity.

Thoroughly researched and richly illustrated with maps, drawings, and photographs of trees, this book offers a close look at the unique cultural significance of these living witnesses to our history and provides detailed guidelines on how to recognize, research, and report potential marker tree candidates.

Steve Houser owns Arborilogical Services, Inc. in Dallas. Linda Pelon is professor of anthropology at McLennan Community College in Waco. Jimmy W. Arterberry is Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Comanche Nation.

The book is available from the publisher, Texas A&M University Press (www.tamupress.com), as well as many bookstores. It is also available as an ebook. ■



David James, CoR Rep from New Zealand, sent us this picture of him modeling an ISA Texas hard hat at the New Zealand conference. David writes, "The ISA Texas hat raised \$250 at our auction at our conference. The auction was raising money for the Sempervirens Trust – a trust set up to support children of arborists where the arborist has lost their life, so big thank you to the Texas chapter."

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www.texasurbantrees.org

ISA Texas announces Spring Master Series/Tree Appraisal Workshop

Need to stand apart from the crowd and take your arboricultural career to the next level? If so, then the ISA Texas Master Series' Lone Star Tree Appraisal Workshop might be for you!

Two of ISA Texas' own experts offer insights into what actually works in Texas. There will be none of your namby-pamby, city-slicker-style tree appraisal here. Todd Watson, PhD/BCMA, and Greg David, RCA/BCMA, will team up to "shoot from the hip" about authentic, tried-and-true tree appraisal techniques that work in Texas.

From simple "car versus tree" insurance incidents, through oil and gas surface damage claims, complex herbicide drift cases, precedent-setting pipeline-encroachment cases, and massive wildfires, Watson and David will lead you through the techniques that have worked in Texas courts.

We'll talk theory and methodology in the morning, and actual case reviews in the afternoon. Of particular interest will be the review of the recent precedent-setting appellate and Texas Supreme Court cases related to tree values.

Keep watching ISATexas.com/events for more information. Save the dates: Central Texas—March 3, DFW area—March 24. ■



Recently ISA Texas offered two TRAQ courses – one in Houston and one in Austin. Congratulations to all of our newly credentialed members! Pictured above is the Austin class which was taught by Skip Kincaid, with Lara Schuman, ISA Texas president, serving as onsite host.



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Oh those underused understory trees:

Mexican buckeye and Mexican plum

by Mark A. Peterson, Conservation Project Coordinator, San Antonio Water System

Understory trees (also referred to as ornamental trees) add color, vertical structure, and wildlife benefits. No home landscape should be without them. Are your homes missing this important feature?

Understory trees, that is, trees that remain petite beneath large shade trees, provide layers within the urban forest that assist with rain storage and sunlight dispersion. Often they provide colorful flowers, mostly in the spring but occasionally in the summer. Wildlife, from two to eight legs, use understory trees as food and shelter. Most bird nests are found in these trees.

Two of our versatile and tough selections are the Mexican buckeye (<http://bit.ly/MexicanBuckeye>) and the Mexican plum (<http://bit.ly/MexicanPlum>). Both are adaptable to all soils of the area but both prefer partially shaded areas.

MEXICAN BUCKEYE



Features

Not a true buckeye, Mexican buckeye produces a three-lobed shell which contains three dark brown seeds with a small white “eye” that resemble a deer’s eye. Mexican buckeye has light pink flowers which are some of the first of the year, arriving in late February and early March. The leaves are compound with 5-7

leaflets. Average height: about 12 feet.

Where to plant

It may be planted in full sun but prefers partial shade. Slope or flat ground? It doesn’t matter.

When to plant

As with all woody trees and shrubs, November 1 to April 1 is planting time.

Water

After an initial establishment period, Mexican buckeye requires water 4-6 times a year at most. It is a native, remember!

Fertilizer

None needed except for annual compost and mulch.

Pests

Humans with weed-eaters and mowers seem to be the greatest pest. Deer do not like the taste of its leaves.

MEXICAN PLUM



Features

Mexican plum produces fragrant white flowers in early March. The fruit is smallish but very tasty to wildlife and humans alike when it ripens late July to early September. The leaves are distinctive with thick, netted veins. Average height: about 20 feet.

Where to plant

Mexican plum does not like full sun at all but will tolerate

it with late afternoon shade so do not plant it in the front along the street. It does tolerate sands and heavy clays but really prefers well drained, moist soils.

When to plant

November 1 to April 1.

Water

After establishment, water once a month, March through October if no effective rain has occurred. One (1) to one and one half (1½) inches is sufficient.

Fertilizer

None needed except for annual compost and mulch.

Pests

Fondly called the “long legged hog,” whitetail deer love the Mexican plum. The plum should not be planted without some sort of protection. I favor an energetic small dog, preferably a terrier of some sort. The two-legged pest with a weed-eater is also a threat.

Understory trees like the Mexican buckeye and the Mexican plum provide a multitude of benefits such as color, layering, food, shelter, and buffering from pesky neighbors. No home landscape should be without them. ■

Are You Minding Your Gap? by Paul D. Reis

Users of the London subway system, called the Tube, are familiar with the ubiquitous phrase “Mind the Gap” – an audible and sometimes visual warning telling people to pay attention to the 3- to 4-inch gap between the train and the station platform. The phrase was first introduced in 1969 and has become somewhat of a cultural icon in certain quarters, and you can even purchase a t-shirt with the words on it. The automobile side-view mirror warning “objects may be closer than they appear” may be the closest US equivalent to “mind the gap.” Both of these phrases serve as reminders of people to avoid a potential problem that left unheeded could cause real problems.

Another gap that needs minding is the gap between what we know and what we need to know in the fields of arboriculture and urban forestry. In his book *What Got You Here Won't Get You There*, author Marshall Goldsmith observes that behavior, not technical skills, is what separates the great from the near great. Incredible results can come from simple things like saying thank you, listening well, thinking before you speak, or admitting and apologizing for mistakes. In other words, our technical skills will take us only so far in life – successfully dealing with people and being mindful of our own capabilities are key ingredients to advancing in your career or personal life. Most of us in the green industry got here because we like trees, and we found we are good at working with them. Far fewer of

us got where we are today because we like people, or because we are good at dealing with them! But the most successful arborists and urban foresters must be able to be good at both trees and people.

While we as arborists and urban foresters tend to gravitate toward training courses that refine our ability to work with trees, perhaps we need to focus more of a training emphasis on the people side of the equation. That isn't to say we can ignore the technical; obviously we need to keep abreast of research findings and practice advances in the field of trees. But if we stop there, we leave a gap that can cause us eventually to stumble. So the next time you hear phrases like “mindfulness,” “emotional intelligence,” “leadership capacity,” or “interpersonal relationships,” stop and listen. Become intellectually curious about how understanding terms like these can help advance your career as an arborist or an urban forester. Here is a challenge: for every tree related training you attend in 2017, seek out and attend a non-tree related training. Because by “minding the gap,” success will be an object that is closer than it appears. ■

Paul is the facilitator of the upcoming workshop “Thinking Outside the Bark: Increasing Your Influence and Impact as a Natural Resource Professional.” See page 6 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 24 (Dallas), January 26 (Austin area)

Thinking Outside the Bark: Increasing Your Influence and Impact as a Natural Resource Professional

Interactive, one-day training will help you be more effective and learn how to “expand the possible” at work. Details and registration at ISATexas.com/events

January 26, 27, February 9, 10 (Bryan)

Arboriculture 101 – 2017

If you are preparing for ISA's Certified Arborist exam, TCIA's Tree Care Specialist credential, or are interested in improving your knowledge of trees, Arboriculture 101, taught by Dr. Todd Watson, is a comprehensive short course for in-depth understanding.

<http://streamsidegreen.com/upcoming-classes>

February 24 (Grand Prairie)

The Evolution of Tree Care: 2017 North Central Texas Urban Forestry Conference

Keep an eye on <http://www.ctufc.org/> for more information.

March 3 (San Antonio), March 24 (Round Rock)

Certified Arborist Exam

Check ISATexas.com/events for location, registration deadlines and check-in times.

March 3 (Central Texas), March 24 (DFW area)

Spring Master Series/Tree Appraisal Workshop

with Todd Watson and Greg David. More info on page 8, and keep checking ISATexas.com/events.

March 10 (Schertz)

Bilingual Tree Care Workshop

A popular event. Topics include setting up work sites on roads, chipper safety, climbing skills, and pruning. Taught by Kevin Bassett, Micah Pace, Mark Duff, Eduardo Medina and others. Keep watching ISATexas.com/events/.



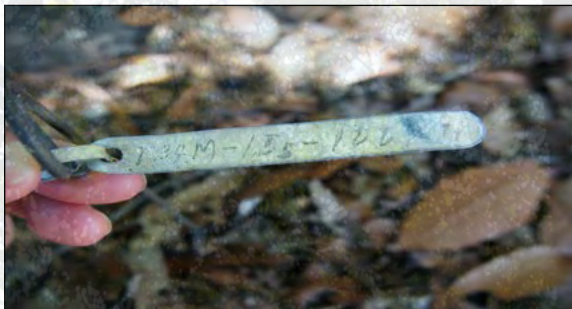
Quercophiles convene in Hempstead

by April T. Rose, Rosewood Arboriculture

On a very hot, breezeless day in July, I joined a group of people passionate about trees, gardens, and landscape design for a visit to Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation. Founded in 1971 by John Fairey, the 39-acre garden is located in Hempstead, Texas, about two hours from Austin and one hour from Houston. Our tour was led by Adam Black, who recently joined Peckerwood as their horticulturist. David Richardson, arborist at the UT-Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, also helped lead the tour; he participated in several specimen collection trips with Fairey and shared many of the personal stories about the excursions that brought the plants to Hempstead.

Our group moved slowly, hugging the shade and focusing on distinguishing features of nearly every oak tree, including when it produced acorns, propagation tips, and landscape uses and limitations. The extensive oak collection includes *Quercus rysophylla*, *Q. affinis*,

Q. germana, *Q. tarahumara*, and *Q. pungens*. There are also collections of succulents, magnolias, and mahonias. One of my favorite trees was a *Q. polymorpha* specimen: its lower limbs were unpruned and they arced to the ground, creating a shaded, secret space that any child or adult would love to discover. Other favorites of mine were the straight and tall sawtooth oaks (*Quercus acutissima*) near the creek; they shaded a beautiful space containing Kurogane holly (*Ilex rotunda*), Chinese weeping cypress (*Cupressus funebris*), yew (*Taxus wallichiana* var. *chinensis*), and red orchid bush (*Bauhinia galpinii*).



Pro tip: this tag says T34M 15S 100771, which means it was collected on the 34th trip to Mexico, the 15th species collected on this trip, and the date of collection.

L-R: David Richardson, Adam Black, Angelita Rodriguez, Andreina Alexatos, Adam Salcedo, Vincent Debrock. Not pictured: April Rose.



Red orchid bush, *Bauhinia galpinii*



◀ Our group was very interested in collection and propagation. Adam discussed his process for collecting cuttings for propagation:

- Take tip cuttings of current year's growth that is hardened off.
- Wrap it in a paper towel to keep it moist.
- Keep it cool.
- Evergreen species are the easiest.
- Make a fresh cut when you are ready to root in soil.
- Roughen it a little to expose more surface area.
- Dip in IBA (Indole 3 butyric acid).
- Plant in straight perlite and water with mister



Unique acorn and leaf of *Quercus dentata* var. *pinnatifida*.

As a chapter, we look forward to partnering with Peckerwood Garden to provide education opportunities for our members. We also support their work to make new species of drought tolerant trees available to the local market. John Fairey was a landscape designer and plant collector and the garden reflects his vision and talent for creating beautiful spaces accented by unique plant features. I recommend that you spend a day exploring the garden, attend a workshop, or volunteer. If you love plants and beautiful garden spaces, you will not be disappointed. ■



L-R: Vincent Debrock, David Richardson, and Andrew McNeil Marshall examining handbasin oak or grape-leaf oak (*Quercus tarahumara*) native to the Sonora desert

NEW MEMBERS

- Hector Berrones San Antonio
- Gerry Bower Schertz
- Matthew Bowman Georgetown
- Jerry Bradshaw Pearland
- Manuel Castillo San Antonio
- Kevin Cobb Salado
- Jerred Dodds Georgetown
- Bob Dray Forest, VA
- Jeffrey Gober San Antonio
- Sarah Gregg Austin
- Brett Hanson Temple
- Imber Hernandez Arlington
- Joseph Hughes Midland
- Mark Kalbfleisch Corpus Christi
- Richard Lavery Garland
- Michael McBride Abilene
- Michael McDougal Austin
- Courtney Murrow Woodward, OK
- Gilbert Partida Splendora
- Francisco Peralta Spring
- Gary Ripps Castroville
- Lawrence Rudd Indio, CA
- Chad Schnitker McKinney

Real World Learning Leads Students to Success

by John R. Warner, CF, CA, Urban District Forester

In early December, some 30 students from Houston's Furr High School, along with natural resource partner Texas A&M Forest Service, spent several hours conducting a service learning project at Hermann Brown Park, a 900-acre forested area next to the school. Class for the day focused on tree identification, invasive species removal, ecological restoration, and chainsaw safety. Wildland Urban Interface Specialist Stuart Coombs and I led the program.

Getting students outdoors for hands-on learning, demonstration, and engagement makes a significant difference in their lives and futures. Young people are not wanting to be lectured to in a traditional box classroom environment; they want to be fully engaged, coming up with and contributing to solutions on issues facing their communities. These students are our future natural resource advocates, partners, and leaders.

Furr High School recently was selected as one of 10 high schools nationally to win \$10 million from XQ Super Schools, part of the Steve Jobs Foundation. Furr was selected as an XQ Super School because of their innovative ways in redesigning the way students learn. Over 15 years the graduation rate at this Houston East End high school increased from about 50% to nearly 95% in 2015. This is not by accident, but by hard work and action on the part of administration, teachers and students.

Successful partnerships and strong collaboration between state and federal agencies, non-profits, municipalities and a multitude of other groups has allowed students participating in the Green Ambassadors program to gain real-life experiences and skills. They are also gaining knowledge that fosters career possibilities and pathways to college. The Green Ambassadors platform is under the direction of Furr High School agricultural teachers, Juan Elizondo and David Salazar.

Selfie with Warner and students.



Over the next four months, once or twice a week, I will be providing hands-on, real-world learning experiences for students. Students will be going to Hermann Brown Park to study and put into practice arboriculture, urban forestry, ecosystem services, and natural resource restoration. Once students complete the natural resource series they will receive certificates of completion listing hours and content they explored. Several senior students have already starting applying for spring and summer internships with US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and National Park Service. This innovative type program, called Genius Hour, is setting Furr High School students up for success. ■



Students move tallow tree away from pond.

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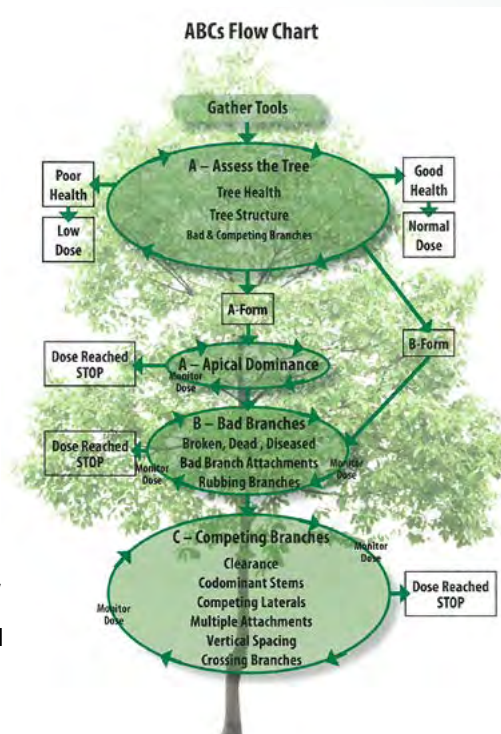
La Poda Estructural – El “Entrenamiento” de los Árboles Jóvenes, Parte 2

por Micah Pace, Presidente-electo de ISAT y Arborista con Preservation Tree Services

La siguiente información fue traducida del libro “The ABC’s Field Guide to Young and Small Tree Pruning” por (Pleninger and Luley 2012).

En el artículo anterior nombramos los tres pasos principales de la poda estructural para los árboles jóvenes. En esta edición compartimos los detalles de los dos primeros pasos y como aplicar esa técnica importante.

Fig. 1 (Pleninger and Luley 2012): Un gráfico desde el libro “The ABC’s Field Guide to Young and Small Tree Pruning” que muestra los tres pasos (A, B, y C) del proceso de planificación e implementación de la poda estructural de los árboles jóvenes.



El Primer Paso (A, A₂, y A₃) – Evaluar la salud, la forma, y la dosis apropiada

- A. *Assess (Evaluar) Tree (Salud)* – Determinar la salud y la cantidad (*dosis*) de poda necesaria (metas vs. la salud/condición del árbol).
- Árboles jóvenes/sanos toleran la poda mejor que los árboles maduros/estresados
 - Se puede usar el color de las hojas y la tasa del crecimiento como índice para evaluar la cantidad apropiada (*Dosis*) de la poda.
 - Niveles de Dosis:
 - **Baja** (árboles recién plantados o árboles estresados): Subordina ramas agresivas para controlar el dominio apical, cortar ramas “feas”, y hacer cortes descopados solo para despejar; hasta 5-15% de la copa viva.
 - **Normal** (árboles sin o con pocos problemas de salud): hasta 33% de la copa viva.
 - **Alta** (árboles de buena salud y con alta tasa de crecimiento – depende de la especie): hasta 33-50% de la copa viva. ▶

◀ A2. *Assess (Evaluar) Tree (Forma)* – Determinar cuál es la forma natural del árbol (“A” o “B”).

➤ La poda correcta resulta en árboles maduros que representan una forma natural de su especie. Hay dos formas generales:

- Forma “A” – tienen un tronco central más o menos recto desde su rama más baja.
- Forma “B” – tienen troncos con laterales múltiples y horizontales que normalmente crecen desde el mismo punto en el tronco y desde la parte más superficial de la copa.

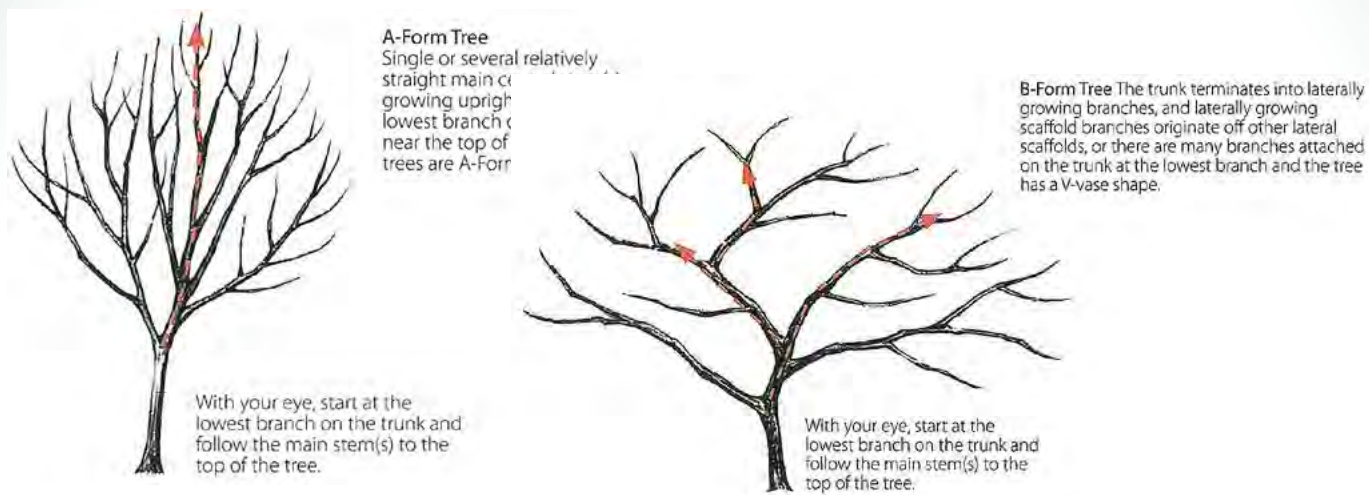


Fig. 2 (Pleninger and Luley 2012): Los dos dibujos ilustran las dos formas generalizadas (“A” y “B”) de la estructura natural de los árboles.

A3 *Dominancia Apical* – Poda para promover un tronco central/principal (árboles solamente con la Forma “A”)

➤ El control de la rama madre sobre sus ramas laterales.

- Identificar y elegir el tronco central
- Subordinar las ramas agresivas con cortes de reducción y/o cortes descopados.
- Agrupar las ramas cortadas para poder cuantificar la proporción cortada de la copa viva.
- El proceso se termina cuando llegues a la dosis requerida o deseada.



Fig. 3: Ejemplos (desde la izquierda a la derecha) de un árbol con el líder central formado, un árbol con varias ramas verticales agresivas (e.g. codominantes), un árbol con ramas agresivas antes y después de la poda de reducción (subordinación) (Pleninger and Luley 2012).

◀ Segundo Paso (B) – Ramas Feas: secas, enfermas, y con uniones débiles

B. *Bad (Ramas Fea) Branches* – Poda de las ramas secas, enfermas, y/o con uniones débiles

- Limpieza – “Crown Cleaning”
 - Identificar ramas “feas” en el árbol.
 - Usar cortes de Remoción y/o Reducción
 - Agrupar las ramas cortadas para poder cuantificar la proporción cortada de la copa viva.
 - El proceso se termina cuando llegamos a la dosis requerida o deseada.

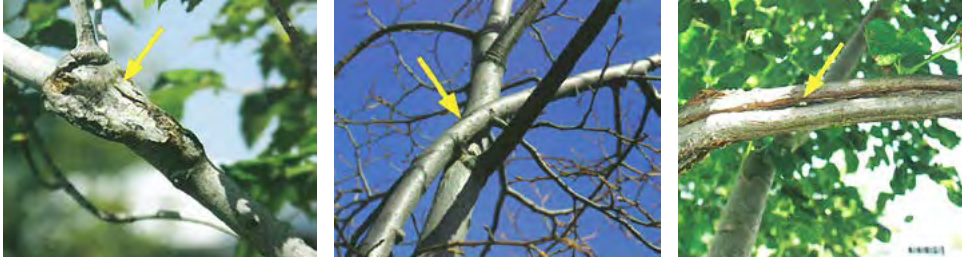


Fig. 4: Ejemplos de las ramas “feas”: ramas enfermas (la foto de la izquierda), ramas que raspan (la foto del medio), y ramas quebradas (la foto de la derecha).

La poda estructural es la técnica preferida para entrenar a los árboles jóvenes a desarrollar un tronco más seguro y una arquitectura de la corona más sostenible. Empezamos en el primer paso identificando la forma natural del árbol. Próximamente evaluamos la salud y la dosis apropiada de la poda. Luego planificamos para la dominancia apical para los árboles con la forma “A”. Finalmente, removimos las ramas “feas” o las ramas secas, enfermas, y con uniones débiles para promover una copa más sana.

En la próxima edición de la revista *Bajo la Sombra* vamos a enfocarnos en los detalles del último paso (C. la poda de las ramas agresivas) de la poda estructural para los árboles jóvenes. Hasta entonces cuidense mucho. Saludos. – MP ■



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... and all around the state



Texans celebrate Arbor Day in the oldest town in Texas ...

Texans from across the state gathered November 4 in the oldest town in Texas to celebrate the State Arbor Day and how trees can connect the past, present and future.

The celebration was a nod to the City of Nacogdoches' tricentennial. Believed to be 300 years old, the town is far older than the state of Texas itself, as are some of the area trees that serve as living witness to local history.

The community has deep roots in traditional forestry as the home of the Stephen F. Austin State University Lumberjacks and the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. But Nacogdoches, a Tree City USA, also values urban and community forestry and was recently named the Garden Capital of Texas by the state legislature.

The celebration, hosted in the historic village of Millard's Crossing, featured a ceremony, educational activities and giveaways. Members of the Garden Capital of Texas Committee ceremonially planted the last of the 300 trees they had planted throughout the community. The tree is an offspring of the most famous of Texas trees – the Treaty Oak – and was donated by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. ■



Cities around the state celebrated Texas Arbor Day this fall. Pictured clockwise from above left are Nacogdoches, Fort Worth, Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Southlake, and Grand Prairie. Each of those locations was marking its standing as a Tree City (or Tree Campus) USA.



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The Tree Care Industry Association has been working since 1938 to advance tree care businesses

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8

93

ASTI

The Arborist Safety Training Institute has approved grants for this many workshops since it's inception.

7,477

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What's the Big IDEa?

Can you identify this Texas tree?



If you know this tree, look for the photo on our Facebook page and correctly identify it in the comment section under the photo, using the full scientific name and one or more common names. If you don't know it, check the page for an answer in a few days. The winner gets bragging rights and the chance to submit a tree to stump fellow arborists in the March issue. *Hint*: Two of the common names refer to the taste of the leaves.

November Winner



Last issue's tree was correctly identified as American fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) by Mark Tietz, General Manager, Meadowlark Land Restoration & Management Inc., and President, Arboreal Specialists Inc. Mark has provided this issue's challenge.