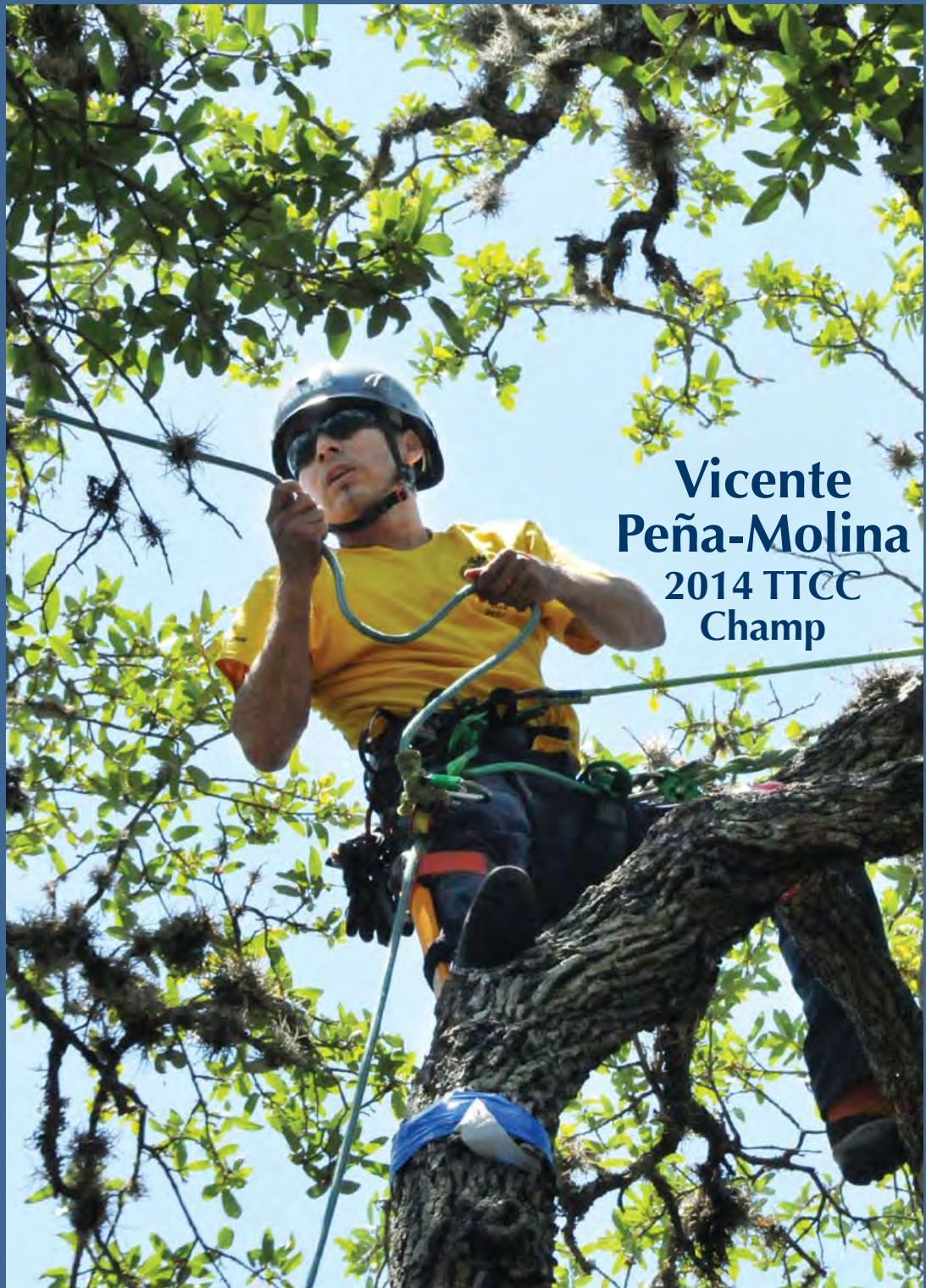


In the shade

Vol. 38, No. 2
July, 2014



**Vicente
Peña-Molina**
2014 TTCC
Champ

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Michael Sultan



For the first 13 years of my professional arboriculture career, I worked for two municipalities, in the roles of both city arborist and urban forester. I received many phone calls about utility line clearance operations, with questions regarding regulations and a city's ability to control, or rather combat, the activities of the tree trimming contractors. It was easy to align myself with the citizens' opinions and how they perceived the quality and severity of the work being performed. Line clearance, especially along rights-of-way that have not been maintained regularly, can be startling and offensive, in particular to those who don't fully understand the burdens of being a utility vegetation manager.

Shortly before I left local government to work in private industry, I was introduced to the regulations and potential penalties under which many of the electric utilities operate, and gained new insight into what they have to consider beyond the obvious task of keeping the electricity flowing. Once I began working directly with utilities and attending conferences with utility-oriented speakers, where I began to see firsthand how they are dealing with vegetation, wildlife, and greater ecosystem concerns, I earned a greater respect for the planning and the resources that go into a right-of-way vegetation management program.

The great thing is that many electric utilities continue to hire professional arborists and/or partner with third party consulting utility forestry companies to enhance their programs. As utility companies become more sensitive to their role as stewards of our urban and community forests, they are changing how their members or customers, and the public in general, perceive their removal and control choices.

In September 2013, Arizona Public Service and Vermont Electric Power Company received the first "Right-of-Way Steward" accreditations, each in the form of a Right-of-Way Steward Founder's Award. The awards recognize their efforts towards sustainable integrated vegetation management within their electric transmission rights-of-way. The Right-of-Way Steward Council (ROWSC) program is a platform for utility companies to share their success and demonstrate their commitment to the standards for environmental stewardship established by the ROWSC. These standards and principles are based on Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) *Standards for Assessing Performance of Integrated Vegetation Management on Rights-of-Way*, and include information from other accreditation programs that include Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Whether it is working with the National Wild Turkey Federation, The American Chestnut Foundation, or Pollinator Partnership, it is exciting to see that electric utility rights-of-way are becoming grounds for viable partnerships to improve ecosystems through thoughtful and well-planned vegetation management. By merging improved safety and reliability with long term cost savings, "right tree right place" campaigns, and the establishment of preferred plant communities within the rights-of-way, electric utility companies are demonstrating in a positive way that they understand their responsibility as ecosystem stewards and as some of the largest urban and community forest managers.

Arboriculture & Urban Forestry Quizzes

The *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* journal now offers one article from each issue with an online CEU quiz, available in the ISA webstore.

Please note, *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* quizzes less than one year old are available online free to members only. Members must log in to receive this member benefit. Online quizzes over one year old may be purchased by both members (\$9.95) and non-members (\$12.95).

If you are certified and successfully pass the quiz with a score of 80% or higher, CEUs will be posted to your account within 48 hours.

NEW Membership Benefit for 2014

As of January 1, 2014, TreeStuff.com is the Official Equipment Sponsor of ITCC. They have signed on to be the sponsor for three years. In addition, they are offering ISA members 10% off all purchases through their website. Members should log in to their ISA website account to obtain the discount.

ON THE COVER

This year's champion, Vicente Peña-Molina, competing in the Masters' Challenge.

Photo by Margaret Hall Spencer.

2014 TEXAS TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP

by Guy LeBlanc, TTCC Head Judge

This year's test to see who would win the right to represent the Texas chapter at the 2014 International Tree Climbing Championship went off without a hitch, so to speak, and at the end of the final day of competing, the most deserving contestant won.

Our host this year was the city of New Braunfels, and city forester Kelly Eby really rolled out the welcome mat, generously making two fabulous parks available for us. For the first time in chapter history, the preliminaries and the finals (the Masters') were held in two different locations. There were many other firsts this year as well. *Read on...*

The prelims were held in Cypress Bend Park. Right on the Guadalupe, this park boasts a stately grove of bald cypress trees, and several of the preliminary event trees hung over the river. Another first for this year, and possibly a first ever in any chapter or international competition was a traverse station, requiring contestants to "zip line" from one tree to another as part of the work climb. From the evil mind of yours truly, always trying to invent new ways to torture anyone looking to call himself the Texas champion, this new twist was a big hit.

We had 27 contestants from around the state this year, as well as former World Champion Jared Abrojena, who flew in from California with his dad Gary (himself a multi-time Western Chapter champ) and his brother Gary Jr., to provide us with a truly world class pre-competition workshop. Two contestants who were grouped with Jared said that it was a huge benefit to them to go through the events side by side with this gracious athlete.

Though the day before setup provided the most rain central Texas had seen since last year, things dried out quickly, and by Friday morning the sun was out. It was a near perfect day for competing, although the wind was up a bit, making throwline a bit more challenging. That didn't stop Vicente Peña-Molina and David Ruiz from both nailing perfect scores. Head Judge Curtis Schoessow and his team did a great

job of administering the complicated rules for this event.

Footlock saw no world record from reigning champ Miguel Pastenes, who's been knocking on that door for a while, but a 16.4 second time made him fastest in the state (again), although that Abrojena kid reminded Miguel he's got company shooting for that record, turning in a time of 15.83 seconds himself. Head Judge Ken Smith and his team made sure the event was fair, safe and fun.

Belayed Speed Climb began with a gut-busting 20-foot straight haul up a nice fat cypress; then it was through a maze of limbs before scrambling another 20 feet or so to the top bell. Matt Latham (who also organized the Recreational Climb this year) took this one with a time of 35.9 seconds, although he also was bested by Jared. Head Judge Chris Brewer and crew kept the belays running tight.

Vicente Peña-Molina topped the locals at Work Climb, gliding through the narrow course and shuttling back from the far end of the traverse station with ease. The weight station limb was a bit stiffer than most this year, but the height and small target for the limb toss made that station quite a challenge. Head Judge Markus Smith and his team showed they were up to the challenge of getting 28 men safely up to 70 feet with multiple rope changes.

The "zipline" was one of several new features at this year's competition.



Aerial Rescue presented yet another first for the chapter this year, with the setup by head Judge Nevic Donnelly having the "victim" hanging on a footlock prusik. This type of scenario has become common at International, but is much more of a challenge than the ones normally done at the chapter level. David Ruiz turned in the top score on that one. Kudos to Nevic's crew, who ran this highly technical event as smoothly as the GRCS, which by the way they opted to operate manually to spare us all the noise and fumes of a gas drill. *Thanks!*

Head Scorekeeper Bryan White and his team once again provided us with a quick and accurate tally, and our top four finishers were 1) Vicente Pena-Molina, 2) Miguel Pastenes, 3) David Ruiz and 4) Jimmy Prichard. The stage was set for the final round, which was held in the truly magnificent Landa Park, in the center of New Braunfels. For those who haven't been there, I'll just say *you're missing out!*

The finalists chose to run the Masters' in the same order they finished prelims in. After a final gear inspection we reviewed the course that would send them scrambling into all four quadrants of a massive, wide-spreading live oak. Set up with help from Head Technician Jim Dossett, four-time Texas champion Nicolas Martinez, and former competition finalist Keith ▶

... WAS A HUGE (& INNOVATIVE) SUCCESS



David Ruiz climbing. David was 3rd in the Masters', 1st in Aerial Rescue and Throwline, and third in Secured Footlock.

Miguel Pastenes climbing. Miguel was 2nd in the Masters', 1st in Secured Footlock, and 2nd in both Belayed Speed Climb and Work Climb.



◀ Babberney, the width of this tree and the course posed major challenges in terms of being safe while moving laterally.

Vicente immediately showed the judges that the other contestants (sequestered as always) would have to go some to beat him, turning in an absolutely solid performance, although he left room for improvement with regards to safe lateral movement.

Six-time and defending champion Miguel Pastenes did an excellent job, but it was obvious to all that it was not his best effort, and he struggled with his balance at several points on the course, and beat the 27 minute time set for the event by only *ten seconds!*

David Ruiz showed that he is a calm, steady performer, but he was not quick enough this year, and timed out before completing the final station, costing him his descent points and a big penalty for not removing his equipment.

The last contestant was six-time finalist Jimmy Prichard. In one more first for this year, single rope technique work positioning (SRTWP) was allowed. While SRT ascents have been allowed for several years now, this was the first year ITCC rules have allowed SRT for work positioning. This sea change was seen as a

probable advantage for Prichard, who climbs this way routinely. However, because the top of this oak was rather thin, the judges ruled that base-of-tree anchoring systems that ran the SRT line through the very top of the tree would not be allowed for safety. Although informed of this during the walk-through, during the event Jimmy did not realize at first that he was doing exactly that. Once he realized it, he had already lost more than half his time. He ran out of time before completing the event.

When the scores were tallied by Bryan and Judge Gene Gehring, it turned out that the contestants finished the Masters' in the same order they had the prelims. Vicente Pena-Molina is our new champion, and has earned the right to compete in Milwaukee this summer. Make your plans to go there and cheer him on.

Chairman Kevin Bassett, Head Technician Jim Dossett and I wish to thank the city of New Braunfels and our dedicated crew of hard working volunteers, without whom this event could not take place. ■

The huge cypress.





Vicente Peña-Molina

THE WINNERS!

TTCC Champions:

- 1st overall – Vicente Peña-Molina
- 2nd – Miguel Pastenes
- 3rd – David Ruiz
- 4th – Jimmy Prichard



Otoneil Sanchez

Aerial Rescue:

- 1st – David Ruiz
- 2nd – Otoneil Sanchez
- 3rd – Daniel "Benito" Garcia



Daniel "Benito" Garcia

Belayed Speed Climb:

- 1st – Matt Latham (35.93 seconds)
- 2nd – Miguel Pastenes (38.35 seconds)
- 3rd – Jimmy Prichard (43.11 seconds)



Matt Latham

Secured Footlock:

- 1st – Miguel Pastenes (16.40 seconds)
- 2nd – Vicente Peña-Molina (20.84 seconds)
- 3rd – David Ruiz (23.92 seconds)



Miguel Pastenes



David Ruiz

Throwline:

- 1st – David Ruiz
- 2nd – Vicente Peña-Molina
- 3rd – Ramiro Dorantes

Work Climb:

- 1st – Vicente Peña-Molina
- 2nd – Miguel Pastenes
- 3rd – Jimmy Prichard



Ramiro Dorantes



Jimmy Prichard

Spirit of the Competition:

Daniel "Benito" Garcia

Volunteer of the Year:

Kelly Eby, City of New Braunfels



Kelly Eby

Yes, we gathered at the river... and it was great!

by Kevin Bassett, TTCC Chair

New Braunfels was an excellent host city and we enjoyed their superb hospitality. Thursday our seminar featured Jared and Gary Abrojena. They had about 30 eager arborists learning the details of SRT tree climbing as well as a short history of how we got to where we are in the technical world of rope tree climbing. I believe everyone was able to learn something from these highly respected arborists. I want to thank Husqvarna and Petzl for making it possible for them to come to our event.

The site at Cypress Bend along the Guadalupe is blessed with a wonderful grove of bald cypress and a few pecans besides. Head Judge Guy LeBlanc, along with his judging and tech team, set a very challenging and fun group of preliminary events. Mr. Abrojena even commented to me on how well the event setup was done. We were able to get through gear check and walk-through in a timely fashion, and all events were completed on Friday as planned. The four finalists in order of finish were: Vicente Peña-Molina, Miguel Pastenes, David Ruiz and Jimmy Prichard.

It was interesting, but not necessarily surprising, that the Masters' Challenge Championship Round ended in the same order. Congratulations to each of these gentlemen; all are now eligible to apply for a spot in the 2015 North American TCC. The Texas Chapter will designate Vicente and Miguel as our two official entries. David and Jimmy will be able to apply to that competition as guests. If one of the top two is unable to go then the next finisher will be designated.

2014 Champion Vicente Peña-Molina will be the chapter's designated entry into the 2014 ITCC, to be held in Milwaukee this summer. We all wish him well and we will all be rooting for him for a great finish at that event. If you attend the ISA conference please attend the ITCC as well, if just to encourage our Champion.

The Masters' final day in Landa Park was really a great event. While the Masters' climbers and judges got prepared, we had a number of fun things going on. Kelly Eby was able to convince a number of non-profit organizations as well as the Texas Chapter to set up and disseminate information about trees and resource conservation to the general public. We were able to watch well-known wood carver Craig Johnson begin an art piece which will be donated to the city of New Braunfels when it is completed. Best of all we had 86 recreational climbers of all ages take on and climb a beautiful live oak adjacent to the Masters' tree. Matt Latham and Phillip Schultz of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center along with their assistants did a spectacular job. It was really great to see parents climbing with their children. I saw a lot of joy on peoples' faces at that event, and that alone made the whole day a huge success.

Besides all of that we had our wonderful sponsors set up and exhibiting their tools and equipment. Without the support of our sponsors I know we would be sunk on the financial side. I'm not sure everyone understands the full cost of having this competition. I will say that it does represent a considerable investment towards improving the climbing skills of arborists in Texas. Our sponsors are a key part of making this event a possibility, so please keep them in mind when you plan for your tool and equipment purchases in the future.

From the very beginning Saturday morning, it was almost as if a switch was flipped and the event was up and running. I have no idea how many people visited and came through the park but our exposure was excellent, our message was clear, and I think almost everyone had a great time. Our ISAT team of volunteers should be proud. Our event went off very well. As Chair, I appreciate the effort given, the professional demeanor, and outstanding execution that this event embodied. **YOU ALL MADE IT HAPPEN.**

As for our Champion, Vicente's climb in the Masters' Challenge was well planned and executed with great style and panache. I know he is looking forward to the opportunity to measure himself against the best in the world at this summer's International competition. I know he will represent Texas well.

One last item: Guy LeBlanc and I made a commitment to each other and the ISAT board to take on the duties of Chairman and Head Judge of the Texas Tree Climbing Championship through 2016. After that I believe we both would like to be involved in some manner, but someone else will need to step up to lead this event forward into the bright future. If you are that person, get involved, join the TTCC team and let's keep our event growing and getting better every year. Without you, your dedication, time and effort the event will suffer. So let's do it again for 2015. ■



Kevin Bassett and Guy LeBlanc



1&2 The judges and the photographers agreed: it was an interesting move.

3. The Fun Climb: a great way to spend an afternoon.

4. Jared Abrojena teaches at the pre-competition workshop.

5. Dummy limb adds a realistic touch to Aerial Rescue.

6. Landa Park group was one of several non-profit organizations at the TTCC.

7. Serving up a hot lunch.





8. Comfortable and confident, trusting the ropes.

9. David Ruiz cuts it up with Will King, Stihl chainsaw competition helper.

Many thanks to Margaret Hall Spencer for the photos of the Texas Tree Climbing Championship on pages 4–10.

To see more of Margaret's photos of the TTCC go to:

<http://s1107.photobucket.com/user/StreamsideGreen/library/2014%20TX%20Tree%20Climbing%20Championship?sort=9&page=1>

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What does it take to coordinate the TTCC? (a look behind the scenes)

by Kirbie Houser

Fortunately for me, I'm closely related to the man which the coveted "Houser Cup" is named after, and I've been attending the annual state tree climbing competitions since I was in diapers. The event has never failed to inspire me. My father, Steve Houser, who coordinated his share of competitions in the past, raised me in the tree-friendly atmosphere that drives my appreciation for all things involved in these events. The skilled climbing is fascinating, and the combined knowledge of the volunteers is unmatched. Everyone that takes part has an impressive knowledge of trees and skills that are uncommon among the general public.

How many ISAT members actually know what it takes to put these things together? I know I never did. Just over four years ago, I went from being an admiring visitor in support of the arborists and hard-working climbers I've known and grown up around, to an unschooled volunteer. After my longtime friend and colleague, Kevin Bassett, began chairing the competitions, I knew I was pretty much all in.

It starts with location. It's always location, location, location. This choice in itself can be problematic. If it's too far south, you lose people in the northwest and northeast areas of Texas. If it's too far north, you lose people from the south. There are a lot of things to consider, and the decision has to be made pretty quickly, as you'll need at least the next eight months to prepare. Thankfully, Kevin has a good knowledge of these things and with some concessions finds a good fit for everyone.

After finding a location for the competition, consideration must be given to the city you'll be working with. This can be one of the more complicated tasks (as some of the past TTCC chairs can tell you) due to some cities having much more restrictive park rules than others. Then comes exchange of numerous phone calls and emails, and filling out and filing of city forms—crossing the T's and dotting the I's—making sure we follow all city rules.

Oddly enough, I've found that filling out city paperwork is when Kevin and I really start to visualize all of that extra stuff we can do to make the event unique:

"Hey Kirbie what if we add a recreation climb?" "Definitely."

"We can also invite non-profit groups!" "Absolutely!"

"What about food trucks?" "YEAH!"

I guess when we start reading the rules of what we *can't* do, we automatically start to think about how much we can really get away with!

Who's going to be in the setup crew and who's going to judge or tech in those events all day in the Texas sun? It takes someone who knows Texas climbers and arborists, and knows them well. Guy LeBlanc has been a huge part of the volunteer and setup team for years. As a past competitor, and past champion himself, who better for it? Coordinating volunteers can be an exhausting job, as you have constant phone calls, e-mails and follow ups. On top of recruiting volunteers and technicians, you need to know where they go and how they will fit into each event, as well as their confidence levels. (Will this person be strong in that position?) We are talking major safety precautions here, and you always need to be sure you have qualified people involved.

Then come the sponsors. We do have to pay for this stuff somehow, right? This is perhaps the most important part of the pre-competition planning. As with all other forms of group coordination, again there are endless phone calls, follow ups, and towards the end, really just trying to get some sort of commitment. Kevin has worked very hard at this every year, and he's never failed to present us with a great list of tremendous sponsors who are some

of the best in the business. Thank you to Kevin and all of the long-term sponsors that support us every year; we really couldn't do any of it without you!

Once you've settled on the big picture and have a good base of volunteers and sponsors, you still have numerous little details left. This is where I've managed to help. Details of the TTCC range anywhere from setting up food vendors to making sure you have enough pens and clipboards for each preliminary event. Anyone that has been involved in the competitions before can tell you that if you miss even one small element of the details, you can throw off the entire event. It takes a lot of to-do lists and checklists, mixed with concentration and just trying to think of every possible thing that could happen out there.

Overall, the Texas tree climbing competition takes a lot of dedicated people selflessly giving up their personal time—people who really want to see these competitions happen. I've thoroughly enjoyed working with Kevin Bassett and the Texas Chapter in helping to put together the TTCC, and I hope everyone that has attended and will continue to attend is proud of what we've been able to accomplish.

Let's continue to host the best chapter competitions ISA has seen. Thanks to all who have helped put the TTCCs together. ■

ISAT Executive Director John Giedraitis and Kirbie Houser.



Fallen Leaves



Stanley Jay Noblett

The owner of Arbortech Tree Service, Stanley Jay Noblett, 50, of Austin passed away on April 18, 2014. He was born in Dallas, grew up in Mesquite, attended Eastfield Junior College, and continued his education by attending the University of Texas at Austin where he earned his bachelor's degree in biology.

After graduation, he made his home in the Austin area and was employed by a tree business, which led to Stan eventually starting his own business. His company Arbortech (arbortechtreeservice.com) won the #1 Certified Arborist award in Austin for the past three years and was nominated again this year.

Stan's family would like to express their appreciation to Lourdes Oliveira, to whom he was engaged to be married, for all her and her family's love and support. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Travis County Brown Santa, who makes a child's Christmas special (<http://www.brownsanta.org/home.html>).

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You can nominate yourself or another qualified ISAT member. The Election Committee will fill the slate from the nominations. Elections will be held in August and the Board members will be installed at the annual membership meeting held at the Texas Tree Conference on October 3.

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Municipal Forestry Institute 2014



2014 Municipal Forestry Institute class participants from the US and Canada. Thanks to the Texas A&M Forest Service for providing six scholarships for three municipal and three TFS staff.

*by Nick Harrison, Firewise Coordinator/
Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service*

I completed the 2014 Municipal Forestry Institute in February and it was a great experience. The teaching cadre brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the training. It was an honor to be selected to attend, since enrollment is limited every year. I would recommend this training to others.

It was great to work with new people from all over the United States and Canada – to learn about them and share information about our respective programs, each other's communities, and the challenges we all have now and into the future. The training helped to re-energize my work in Wildland Urban Interface issues and showed the correlation between this work and Urban Forestry. The two programs need to work together, especially in Texas as we continue to grow in population and

impact the green spaces and wildland areas with community growth.

Texas had good attendance of staff from TFS and the municipal programs:
Michael Embesi – City of Austin
Jason Alfaro – City of Bastrop
Craig Fox – City of Ft Worth
Chris Orlea – City of Pearland

Nick Harrison – TFS-FRP
Brian Scott – TFS-FRD
John Warner – TFS-FRD

It really was a good group of professionals who attended. I was assigned to a great group and I look forward to keeping up with them and the other attendees. ■



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Micro-Grants to Help Advance Urban Forestry

by Gretchen Riley, Partnership Coordinator,
Texas A&M Forest Service

The Texas Urban Forestry Council, the statewide non-profit membership organization dedicated to fostering green, cool, forested communities throughout Texas, has launched a micro-grant program designed to provide seed money for organizations to engage in promoting and advancing urban forestry across the state.

“TUFC understands there are many groups in our communities that are willing and able to help promote and expand our urban forests throughout the state,” said Neville Mann, TUFC President. “We are also aware that some don’t always have the fiscal means of putting these plans into effect.”

To that end, TUFC is awarding micro-grants of \$500 on a regular basis, as often as monthly, to projects or events that are connected to their mission of promoting greener cities in Texas. Funding for the program is made possible through revenue generated from the Texas Trees license plate and TUFC membership dues.

Anything related to urban forestry is eligible for consideration. Examples include, but are not limited to, a tree planting or urban greenspace rejuvenation project; tree trail signage; public education materials; or even student or staff professional training opportunities such as conferences or workshops.

Applications are due by the 15th of each month and are evaluated on relativity to the TUFC mission, innovative approach, and ability to match or contribute in-kind towards the venture. Although not essential for eligibility, preference will be given towards applicants with TUFC membership, a Texas Trees license plate, and Tree City USA or Tree Campus USA certification of the community.

“We are excited about the micro-grant program,” Mann said. “It enables the Texas Trees license plate fund to directly help groups engage in the promotion and advocacy of trees in Texas cities.”

For more information on TUFC Micro-Grants, membership, or the Texas Trees License plate visit www.texasurbantrees.org or contact Neville Mann at ntml1@rice.edu.



Neville Mann, TUFC President “models” the Texas Trees license plate, funding source of TUFC Micro-Grant Program.



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EDITOR'S NOTE by Oscar Mestas

Hola fellow ISAT members. I think one of the myths or misconceptions is that I receive more articles than I need to fill an issue of *In the Shade*. Sometimes I do, but it would be nice to have that problem every time. What I try to avoid is looking for fillers at the last minute. As your Editor, I have to make decisions on what articles get in, which articles can wait, and which ones may not be relevant to arboriculture or urban forestry. Sometimes it helps to make suggestions. For instance I think an interesting article would be one on click beetles, and I know there is someone out there that could do an excellent job in writing one. One of my latest challenges is the addition of the Spanish page Bajo la Sombra. Since the page made its debut two years ago in the July 2012 issue, I have been fortunate to have three regular contributors and one new contributor. So at this time I would like to say MUCHAS GRACIAS to Micah Pace, Salvador Alemany and Mark Duff, who have submitted the majority of the articles, and to Nicolas Martinez, my newest contributor. Don't be shy, if you are confident in your Spanish writing skills please send in an article. As always if you have any comments, suggestions or want to send in an article, please send them to me. My email is omestas@tfs.tamu.edu.

NEW MEMBERS

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Anthony Diesch	Rockwall
Louis Garcia	Spring
Leah Gibson	San Marcos
Tim Harlow	Rowlett
Clint Joseph Holloway	Nacogdoches
Eduardo Jasso	Baytown
Matt Johnson	Amarillo
Nancy Joslin	Plano
Marcus Mayerhofer	Lewisville
Shane Morrell	Aubrey
Emmett Muennink	The Colony
Darrell Owens	Bee Cave
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Desert Trees: Form and Structure

by Kevin Salamandra & Ed Mulrean, PhD

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Even to the most casual observer, the “forests” of the desert southwest are profoundly and unmistakably different from forests found anywhere else in North America. It is, in part, this austere, dispersed landscape and distinct environs that have made the desert a place of wonder and unique beauty. Survival in this environment required adaptation to conditions where light was abundant and water scarce, in stark contrast to eastern hardwood forests where water is abundant and competition was for sunlight.

This distinction is critical in understanding the form and structure of desert adapted trees in both natural setting and landscapes. Multiple trunk forms, as observed in Acacias, Palo Verdes, Ironwoods and Mesquites in the Sonoran desert, are the end product of an evolutionary process that allowed these species to survive and flourish in an uncompromising environment. Multiple trunk forms provide essential physical adaptations to dry desert conditions. The broad, spreading canopy shades the soil beneath the drip line reducing surface evaporation, following rains, and allows more moisture to penetrate into the root zone. Canopy shade inhibits the germination of seedlings, even of the same species, from growing near established trees and potentially competing for the limited supply of water. In the more mature forms, branches extend all the way down to the surface of the soil, creating a dome shaped, boundary layer of still air within the canopy that forces hot dry air over the majority of the leaf surfaces, rather than through. This redirection of hot wind, and consequently the reduction of transpiration (water loss through the leaves) further improves moisture conservation. The form and structural characteristics of the majority of desert native trees more reasonably resembles that of a very large shrub, particularly in comparison to non-desert species. This form should be enhanced and complimented through the pruning process, and should not be seen as a challenge to overcome.

It has been enormously gratifying to witness the growth in popularity of desert adapted trees in a wide array of landscape applications and their use as substitutes for traditional, high water demanding trees. This evolution in design has given rise

to a landscape aesthetic that is more reflective of the desert region we live in and celebrates the beauty and diversity of this environment instead of trying to mask it. Desert adapted, multiple trunked specimens have been successfully used in streetscapes, commercial, residential, multi-family and municipal landscapes of all sizes.

There has been discussion that the natural, multiple trunk form of desert species can lead to compromised structural integrity and some have suggested that single trunk forms of these trees are more appropriate and durable. While it is clear that some desert trees come to the marketplace with defects (included bark, tight branch angles, bound roots), these are byproducts of poor quality management or poor stock selection during the propagation and production process in the nursery. The notion that desert trees should be pruned and shaped into single trunked forms, more closely resembling those of traditional, introduced, hardwood trees species, denies the basic genetics of desert species, and ignores fundamental (and evolutionary) differences between these two very different types of trees. Dr. Ed Gilman, in his recently revised *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning*, observes, “...a number of small-maturing trees and shrubs...can be displayed nicely by creating a multitunked, multileader, or lowbranched tree. Many develop a multitunk form without pruning.” This is, quite literally, a description of the vast majority of desert adapted and desert native trees.



Low branching and multiple trunks are typical for desert trees.

Community or municipal landscape codes work at cross purposes when they encourage or require the planting of desert adapted species and then require that these trees be planted as single trunked or single leader specimens. Pruning desert adapted trees into unnatural single leader forms decreases structural integrity and potentially reduces durability and longevity. Severe weather events, obviously,

can have catastrophic effects on the landscape. In the worst cases these effects are unfortunate and often unpreventable.

The very nature of biology is the adaptation to adversity and the interaction with the environment. Desert adapted trees take their form and structure from the environment they evolved in and the conditions they have endured. Their durability, in this difficult region, is a testament to a hard won perfection they achieved after millennia of struggle. Our job is to acknowledge and respect this perfection and reflect it in our approach to nursery production methods, landscape designs, installation and maintenance. ■



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Evaluating the Use of i-Tree ECO in the Southeastern US, Part 2

by Francisco Escobedo, University of Florida- School of Forest Resources and Conservation

This article is a continuation of an article in the previous issues of In the Shade. In this article, originally published in the Fall 2013 issue of the Florida Arborist Newsletter (<http://www.floridaisa.org/pdf/2013Fall.pdf>), we presented some studies that evaluated the use of i-Tree ECO's sampling methods for the southeastern US – including east Texas – and for carbon storage estimates for live oaks in the Gainesville, Florida area. In Part 2 we explain how these evaluations can be used to better understand and adjust the model results. Again, even though this was aimed at users in the southeast, many of the lessons as well as advantages and limitation of the model are applicable to recent ECO projects in west Texas.

PART 2

To assess ECO errors when making city-level carbon (C) estimates, the 2014 study by Timilsina and others also measured city-wide urban tree carbon storage changes, or gross C sequestration, for different land uses using data from re-measurements of trees in permanent tenth acre plots and the University of Florida urban oak tree and pine equations from Florida and Alabama. Individual trees were measured for C storage changes over 3 years and the local/regional urban oak and pine equations accounted for 50% of all trees sampled.

Preliminary results show that annual gross carbon sequestration using actual measurements, growth rates, and local-regional equations was twice as much as estimated from a study by Escobedo and others (2010) using i-Tree ECO. While a larger sample size is needed, this is an example of inaccuracy which might have a notable impact on a city's overall carbon estimates, depending on species composition and climate.

Since the results reported are from just 2 case studies in Alabama and Florida that used: a 100% inventory for Auburn University's campus, permanently accessible plots, and local-regional equations; efforts show that validating these findings at sites throughout the southern United States are needed to better improve

i-Tree estimates. Some of these efforts could include: Developing guidelines for more accurate and efficient data collection methods, determining an optimal number/size of plots for different cities and climates, and incorporating more local-regional and species/site-specific leaf area and biomass equations and model assumptions necessary for estimating urban forest ecosystem services.

This additional information is important since the amount of time and cost associated with acquiring i-Tree data is directly dependent on measurement effort and the number and size of plots. Site- and species-specific carbon sequestration estimates, for example, are also important for participation in carbon markets and verifying and monitoring existing and future carbon offset account protocols:

http://www.climateactionreserve.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/Urban_Forest_Protocol_summary_0309.pdf.

Finally real world examples and guidelines of how cities have used i-Tree results for promoting and advocating for their urban forest resources would also benefit users.

In conclusion, developed over a decade ago from several different models and studies, mostly from the temperate Northeastern, Midwestern and Pacific Coast areas of the US, i-Tree is now beginning to be widely used in cities across the southern US and other

countries. We hope that studies such as these are useful to both i-Tree users and developers in further advancing – and improving – this tool. In addition to the i-Tree Resources web site (<http://www.itreetools.org/resources/>) the following readings will provide more information on the studies presented in this article:

- Escobedo, F, Varela S, Zhao, M, Wagner J, Zipperer W. 2010. Analyzing the efficacy of subtropical urban forests in offsetting carbon emissions from cities. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 13:362-372.
- Martin, N.A., A.H. Chappelka, G. J. Keever, and E.F. Loewenstein. 2011. A 100% tree inventory using i-Tree Eco protocol: A case study at Auburn University, Alabama. *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* 37: 207-212.
- Martin, N.A., A.H. Chappelka, E.F. Loewenstein G.J. Keever and G. Somers. 2013. Evaluation of sampling protocol for i-tree Eco: A case study in predicting ecosystem services at Auburn University, Alabama. *Arboriculture.& Urban Forestry* 39:56-61.
- Timilsina, N., Staudhammer, C.L., Escobedo, F.J., Lawrence, A. In Review. Tree biomass, wood waste yield and carbon storage changes in an urban forest. *Landscape and Urban Planning*. ■



International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and ISA Texas Chapter recently hosted Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) trainings in San Antonio at the Hardberger Urban Ecology Center and in Conroe/The Woodlands at Texas A&M Forest Service W. Goodrich Jones State Forest. Arborists from around Texas and Mexico attended two days of class, field exercises, and a half-day test.

TEST PROCTORS AND ASSISTANTS NEEDED

ISAT is in need of proctors and test assistants for certification exams. Prerequisite: the proctor must be a certified arborist and approved by the certification liaison. The test assistant does not need to be certified but must be approved by the certification liaison.

If you can volunteer at least one time a year for an exam in Conroe, Dallas, Round Rock or Austin please call Misti Perez at 512-965-1076 or email at misti.lanehawaii@yahoo.com for an application.

If you'd like to obtain CEUs for an event, fill out a CEU approval request at:

isatexas.com/Members/Certification_Information.htm



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Pest Post: cedar bark beetle, a pest of eastern red cedar

Severe outbreak of cedar bark beetle detected



Fig1 Extensive mortality of eastern red cedar in Fayette County.



Fig 2 Adult of *Phloeosinus dentatus*



Fig 3 Two larvae of *Phloeosinus dentatus*



Fig 4 Cedar bark beetle adult and larval galleries beneath the bark.

A severe outbreak of the cedar bark beetle, *Phloeosinus dentatus*, has been detected in Fayette and Washington counties, Texas, in 2014. The bark beetle infestations have been observed as far east as Huntsville and as far west as Austin. The outbreaks are scattered throughout this 150-mile area and seem to be concentrated in the vicinity of Round Top and La Grange.

The outbreak of cedar bark beetles has resulted in extensive mortality of eastern red cedar in areas of Fayette and Washington counties. (Figure 1). Cedar bark beetles are native to this area but they are not typically aggressive tree killers. However, due to drought and dense stand conditions, bark beetle populations have reached epidemic proportions.

Phloeosinus dentatus is a small bark beetle (approximately 3mm in length) with reddish-brown coloration (Figure 2). The larvae are cream-colored and have brown head capsules (Figure 3). Evidence of beetle colonization includes the presence of very fine boring dust in bark crevices and around the base of the trunk. Distinct bark beetle galleries or engraved trails can be detected on the wood surface by removing a small section of bark (Figure 4).

Crowns of infested trees will fade from green to yellow and eventually to red. By the time the entire tree crown has turned red, beetles likely have reached the adult stage and have left the tree (Furniss and Carolin 1977; Leatherman and Lange 1997).

The Forest Pest Management Cooperative with Texas A&M Forest Service is conducting a study to determine if emamectin benzoate (TREE-äge™) is effective in protecting eastern red cedar from cedar bark beetles when applied as a tree injection.

Emamectin benzoate (TREE-äge™) is a restricted-use, systemic insecticide that is often used in tree injection and has been found to be effective against several common bark beetle pests of pines in East Texas. High-value cedars can be sprayed with carbaryl (trade name Sevin™) as a preventive measure. Insecticides should be applied before beetle infestation occurs.

Literature cited:

Furniss, R. L., and V. M. Carolin. 1977. Western Forest Insects. Misc. Publ. 1339. Washington, D.C.: USDA Forest Service. 654 p.
Leatherman, D., and D. Lange. 1997. Western cedar bark beetles. Colorado State Forest Service. Unnumbered leaflet. 4 p.



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La Sequía y los Árboles *por Salvador Alemany*

Los periodos de sequía, más aun cuando son prolongados son tiempos de estrés para los árboles. Sobre todo cuando este recurso es escaso las entidades correspondientes limitan su uso de manera que la eficiencia del riego es imperante. Factores como el tipo y condición del suelo, edad y especie del árbol, competencia entre árboles, plantas y césped son elementos cruciales a la hora de determinar frecuencia y volumen de líquido para riego.

La selección de la especie en mi juicio es esencial, especies que fisiológicamente estén adaptadas para tolerar extremos y capaces de disminuir el volumen de evapotranspiración tienen un pie al frente. Si consideramos que el suelo y la raíz del árbol interactúan disponiendo cuanto volumen estará disponible la tolerancia de la especie a amplios rangos en su distribución es el segundo elemento de importancia en esta dinámica. Especies que puedan vivir sobre suelos arenosos, arcillosos y francos en su rango de distribución les da una ventaja en cuanto a la disponibilidad de agua. La tabla 1 muestra especies empleadas en el sur de Texas área del Rio Grande, se debe enfatizar que el hecho de seleccionar una especie por su origen de ser nativa no necesariamente representa una carta de triunfo. Por ejemplo el *Taxodium mucronatum* es nativo de esta región sin embargo crece en áreas donde la hidrología es un factor dominante como la riberas de los cuerpos de agua. Por ende no debe plantarse frente a una casa con limitaciones de riego aun siendo nativo de la región con clima seco y árido.

La frecuencia y volumen del riego dependerá de la tasa de crecimiento y la edad del árbol. Los árboles jóvenes requieren más frecuencia y mayor volumen que árboles maduros. El árbol joven utiliza gran parte de su energía en crecer y desarrollo. El

árbol maduro en mantener su follaje, floración y fructificación, su tasa de crecimiento con el transcurso de los años disminuye paulatinamente. En los árboles adultos es importante regar utilizando como referencia al menos la línea de goteo (figura 1), extenderse idealmente más allá de esta, y teniendo en cuenta que en árboles maduros la copa por regla general puede abarcar tres veces la extensión de la copa (figura 1). Básicamente se debe regar cada tres a cinco días dependiendo de la intensidad de las temperaturas y saturando bien el suelo. Suelos de textura mayormente arenosos requieren más frecuencia pues su nivel de saturación es menor y viceversa con suelos de mayor componente arcilloso o franco.

En árboles jóvenes recién sembrados es conveniente crear una zona de recolección de agua en la base del árbol con un diámetro que se extienda 1.5 a 2 veces el área de su copa. Esto creando un círculo de forma de dique para mantener contenida el agua mientras filtra hacia los estratos inferiores del suelo. Este proceso debe realizarse por lo menos cada dos días, dependiendo por supuesto de la intensidad de la temperatura durante horas de luz y la

textura del suelo según mencionado para los árboles maduros.

En ambos casos es deseable evitar las horas entre 10 de la mañana y 7 de la noche, a esas horas las temperaturas son más altas por ende la evapotranspiración. La aplicación de fertilizantes no está recomendada, estos son altos en sales y observen agua del medio, tampoco la poda de ramas exponiendo la zona al ambiente externo, una de las funciones de la corteza es aislante y protección.

Bajo condiciones normales el árbol extiende el área radical en donde las raíces absorbentes se encuentran en las primeras 18 and 24 pulgadas del suelo. Según va creciendo se debe ampliar el radio de riego del árbol joven y así expandir la extensión del sistema radical. La raíz del árbol es hidrofílica y se dirige siempre en función de agua y oxígeno. Esa la línea de goteo se extenderá según el crecimiento del árbol. Un manejo adecuado sobre el uso del recurso y la selección adecuada de la especie puede significar un ahorro en el costo de mantenimiento y la sobrevivencia del árbol. ►

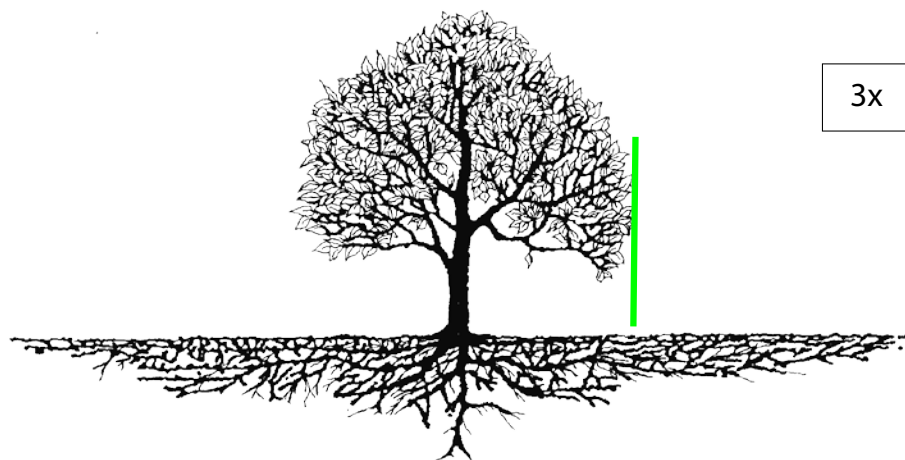


Figura 1, La primera franja verde lustra la línea de goteo del árbol y la segunda extensión de las raíces absorbentes 3 veces la extensión de la copa

Tabla 1 Especies tolerantes a periodos prolongados de sequía de la zona del Rio Grande

Nombre Común	Nombre Científico	Régimen de Agua	Suelos
Anaqua	Ehretia anacua	Bajo a intermedio	Arenoso - franco
Ebano	Pithecelobium ebano	Bajo	Arenoso - franco
Cedro	Ulmus crassifolia	Intermedio	Arenoso - franco
Anacahuita	Cordia boissieri	Bajo a intermedio	Arenoso - franco
Mesquite	Prosopis glandulosa	Bajo	Arenoso - franco
Roble rosa pálido	Tabebuia heterophylla	intermedio	Arenoso-franco arcilloso
Roble rosa	Tabebuia impetiginosa	intermedio	Arenoso-franco arcilloso
Chapote	Diospyros texana	Bajo	Arenosos - franco
Palo Blanco	Celtis laevigata	Bajo - intermedio	Arenoso - franco
Retama	Parkinsonia aculeata	Bajo	Arenoso - franco
Tepeguaje	Leucaena pulverulenta	Bajo - intermedio	Arenoso - franco
Brasil	Condalia hookeri	Bajo	Arenoso - franco
Coma	Bunelia lanuginosa	Bajo	Arenoso - franco
Encino Texano	Quercus fusiformis	Intermedio	Arenoso - franco arcilloso
Huisache	Acacia farneseana	Bajo	Arenoso - franco
Huamuche	Pithecellobium dulce	Bajo	Arenoso - franco
Frijolillo	Sophora secundiflora	Bajo	Arenoso - franco
Tabachin del monte	Caesalpinia mexicana	Bajo	Arenoso - franco



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LANDMARK COTTONWOOD TREATED TO TOUCH-UP

by J.C. Cortez. Originally published in the Amarillo Globe-News.

<http://m.amarillo.com/news/local-news/2014-05-29/landmark-cottonwood-treated-touch>

Specialists from Amarillo Arborlogical were on site Thursday to prune one of the Texas Panhandle's hidden treasures — a gigantic tree known as the Landmark Cottonwood.

The Landmark Cottonwood, located about 14 miles east of Canadian near Hemphill County's Lake Marvin on the Black Kettle National Grassland, is a massive tree approaching 200 years old, said Brian Scott of the Texas A&M Forest Service. The tree towers overhead at 90 feet tall, with a base circumference of more than 21 feet, according to a plaque placed in 1969 to recognize the tree as an official Texas landmark.

Ben Thoennes, Amarillo Arborlogical's general manager, said the average cottonwood tree around Amarillo has a base circumference closer to 7 feet.

"This is the biggest tree I've ever worked on," said Amarillo Arborlogical's Scott Tucker, a certified arborist who has worked in the field for more than six years.

Scott coordinated the pruning with the Black Kettle National Grassland because the Landmark Cottonwood is the Texas Panhandle's last standing tree recognized by the forest service as one of the Famous Trees of Texas.

The distinction, said Scott, quoting from a book about the Famous Trees of Texas, is "to memorialize those trees which have been witness to some of the exciting periods and events in Texas' frontier history."

While the exact age of the tree is un-

known, the earliest records date back to at least the 1860s, when it was already impressive enough to be used by hunters and settlers as a guide point and meeting place, said Thoennes. Stagecoach drivers, buffalo hunters, mail carriers and military units all used the tree as a landmark in the late 1800s, according to information provided by the forest service.



Scott performed an inspection of the tree in February and came to a heartbreaking conclusion: The tree is in decline, and the Texas Panhandle may be close to losing its last standing historic tree.

The pruning took down plenty of dead wood, which posed further hazard to the tree's health. When dead limbs fall, the trunk can be split in unpredictable ways,

leaving wounds susceptible to infections, fungi and insects. Falling wood can damage healthy limbs and reduce the already dwindling canopy, which the tree needs to complete photosynthesis.

That's why Scott contacted Thoennes, a friend and colleague who said he was happy to donate the time and equipment for the project. The special cutting techniques employed by professional arborists minimize the potential for damage to the tree.

Thoennes said Arborlogical was happy to be a part of the pruning project to preserve the heritage and legacy of the Texas Panhandle and the Native Americans and pioneers who settled the area.

The business even purchased a special new climbing setup for the job, a cutting-edge rig called the SRT (Single Rope Technique).

Arborlogical crew member Eric Allen said most trees are easily climbed, but the massive Landmark Cottonwood required something extra.

Despite the age and decline of the tree, Forest Service forester Brian Scott said it is doing great for its age, and with proper maintenance and care, it could last for another generation or longer. Scott said that, while the tree is reaching the end of its life, no one can predict just how long it might still be around. Another major goal of the pruning is to improve the aesthetic of the towering monument.

Scott wants people to be aware of the importance of trees in nature and in day-to-day living. Trees improve our quality of life in reduced energy costs, shade, and in adding a little natural beauty to city life, he said.

Thoennes said that the project is a way of honoring the past generations of Texans. The tree existed before the comfortable beds and smartphones that people now take for granted, and recognizing the Landmark Cottonwood is a way to acknowledge the hardships and sacrifices of the pioneers who conquered the area.

"What really needs to be passed down are the stories," he said. ■

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2014 TEXAS COMMUNITY FORESTRY AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Celebrate the accomplishments of those who have dedicated their talents to spreading a leafy green canopy over Texas by nominating them for the 2014 Texas Community Forestry Awards Program. This program is open to anyone who has a role in building stronger communities by planting, maintaining or protecting trees. Winners will be announced during the annual Texas Tree Conference (isatexas.com/Members/Conference/2014/2014_Texas_Tree_Conference.htm). Each award winner will receive a numbered, remarked and framed, limited-edition print of a Texas Tree painting especially commissioned for the program.

The Texas Community Forestry Awards Program is sponsored by the Texas A&M Forest Service and the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. There are four award categories this year:

ARBORIST OF THE YEAR: Nominations for individual awards are evaluated for leadership, commitment, innovation, impact and sustainability.

THE GOLD LEAF AWARD: Landscape Improvement: An award

to recognize individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have made significant contributions through tree planting and landscaping which enhances environmental protection, conservation, beautification, energy conservation, or wildlife protection. Projects should show significant impact over several years.

ARBORICULTURAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR: Recognition of a specific tree care, protection, or planting project that exemplifies modern arboricultural practices and customer service. Nominees may include arborists, tree care companies, landscape contractors, etc.

OUTSTANDING ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES: An award to recognize individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have promoted Arbor Day through special projects, ceremonies, news articles or observations with an Arbor Day theme.

Nomination forms are available at
isatexas.com/Members/Awards/2014_Texas_Tree_Awards.htm

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October 2, 2014.
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5 pm, August 11.**