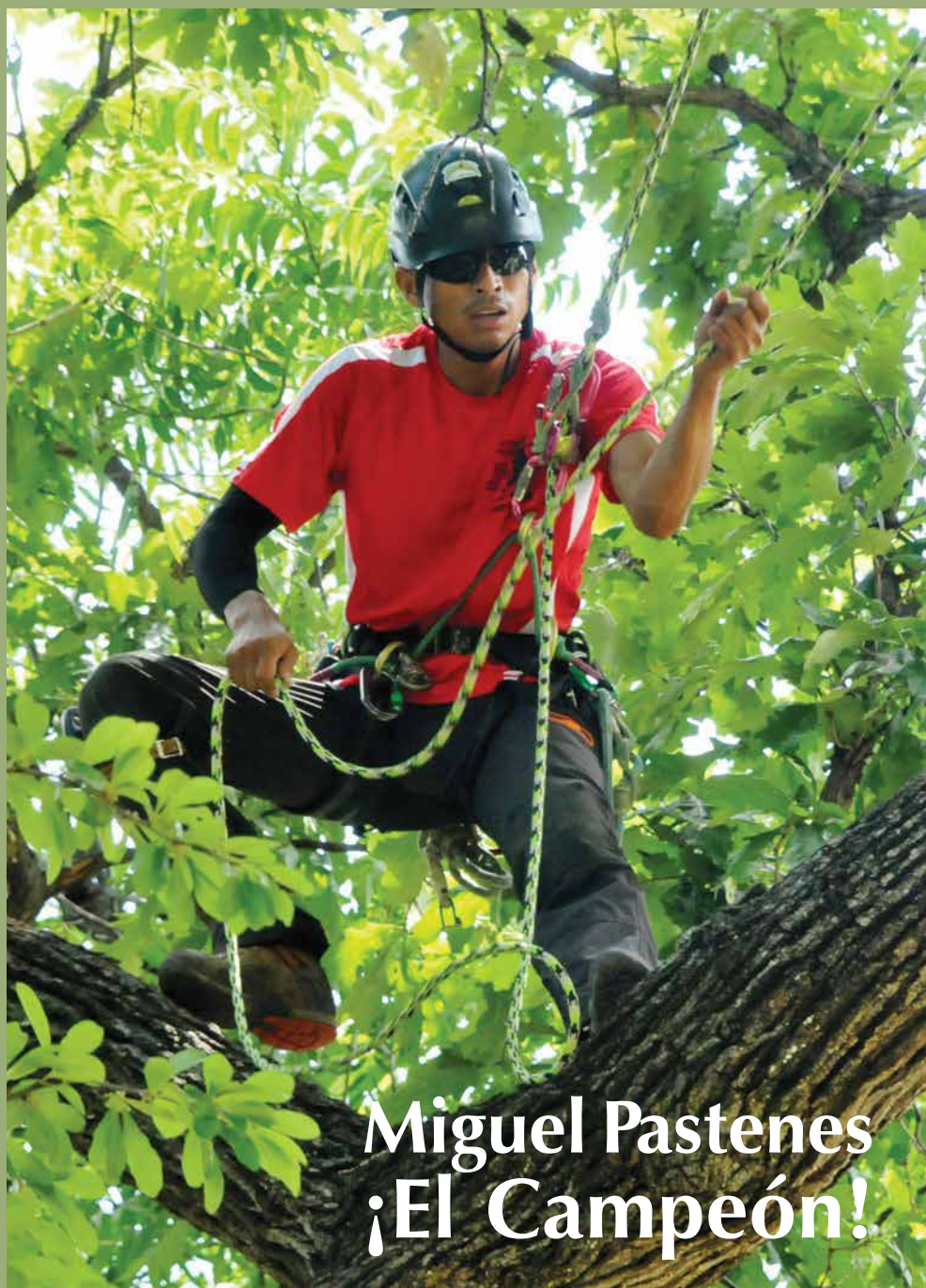


In the shade



**Miguel Pastenes
¡El Campeón!**

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

Vol. 39, No. 2

July, 2015



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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

For the 8th time, Miguel Pastenes is el campeón (the champion) of tree climbing in Texas.

The cover photo of Miguel competing at the 2015 Texas Tree Climbing Championship in June was taken by Margaret Hall Spencer.

For more information on the TTCC, and names of all the winners, see pages 8–10.

Do you have questions for ISA leaders?

Here's a chance to get some answers.

Please submit your inquiries by 31 July to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015-AnnualMeeting>

Please note that responses to member questions will be published in a future edition of *ISA Today*.

NEW MEMBERS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| Michael Ansley | | Euless |
| Ryan Banek | Sunnybrook Tree Service | Tyler |
| Justin Cox | | Mc Kinney |
| Dylan Day | Fort Worth Tree & Pest | Aledo |
| Aaron Duncan | | Melissa |
| Phillip Fernandez | Texan Arbor Care | Hockley |
| Clifford Hawkins | City of McAllen | McAllen |
| Jeff Hempel | | Leander |
| Michael Hewett | Hewett's Lawn Service | Bastrop |
| Morris Kiker | | Arlington |
| Christopher Madden | | Spicewood |
| Gregory Mast | | Austin |
| Mickey McCollum | Fort Worth Arborist | Fort Worth |
| William Michell | | Austin |
| Samuel Mitchell | | Spring |
| Getth Nelson | | Fort Worth |
| Tina Nicholson | Southwest Tree Service | Euless |
| Nathaniel Nightingale | Texas A&M Forest Service | Lufkin |
| James Pasley | | Fort Worth |
| Ernest Raddatz | Tree Wise Men | San Antonio |
| Francisco Rivas-Nunez | | San Antonio |
| Anthony Rivera | | Wolfforth |
| Buddy Rodanski | | Shreveport |
| Joseph Rodriguez | The Urban Foresters | Houston |
| Miguel Sarabia | | El Paso |
| Andrew Somerville | Oasis Landscape Architects & Contractors | Houston |
| Andy Spiegel | | Royse City |
| Keith Swallers | BioLandscape | Rosenberg |
| Brian Tanner | | Helotes |
| Ricky Townsley | ricky townsley | Leander |
| Justin Whisenant | Blackland Woodworks | Mart |
| Molly Wood | | Pflugerville |

CERTIFICATION EXAM DATES

Certified Arborist, Municipal, and Utility exams will be held on:

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| August 15 | Dallas |
| August 18 | Austin |
| October 2 | Waco |
| October 16 | San Antonio |

Learn more about your certification exam options, including how to take computer-based exams, at

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx>

Application handbooks, application forms, and online registration are all available at that site.

For details on Texas exams contact Misti (Beirne) Perez, 512-965-1076.

SAVE THE DATE

2015 ISA Conference & Trade Show, August 8 –12 Orlando, Florida

For more information and to register, go to www.isa-arbor.com/events/reg/event.aspx?EventID=167

Annual ISA Business Meeting, August 9 Orlando, Florida

4 pm at the Gaylord Palms, Osceola Room 1-2.

Nursery/Landscape Expo, August 13 –15 Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Dallas

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Certified Arborist Test Preparation Course Fridays, September 4 to September 25, 9 am – 4 pm San Antonio Botanical Garden

This course was designed to help prepare professional arborists to take the ISA Certified Arborist examination. The teaching cadre has over 210 combined years of experience in the tree care industry. Nonprofessionals are also welcome to attend the entire course or other sessions to gain a better understanding of the benefits of trees and develop their tree ID and tree care skills. Three years of experience is required to take the ISA Certified Arborist exam. For more information on the exam, please visit www.isa-arbor.com. Course schedule:

- Sept. 4 tree biology, tree identification, soil science, and tree support
- Sept. 11 water management, tree nutrition and fertilization, tree selection, installation and establishment
- Sept. 18 pruning & oak wilt, diagnosis & plant disorders, plant health care, tree assessment & risk management
- Sept. 25 trees and construction, urban forestry, tree worker safety, climbing and working in trees

2015 Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist, September 28-October 2, 2015 Conroe

MVES training equips master gardeners and master naturalists to support and expand insect-related county educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Past projects have included educational projects for school children about bugs, building entomology collections for county programs, training other master volunteers, developing presentations, and/or applied research relating to insects. <http://agrilife.org/insectspecialist/2015/03/27/2015-registration-information-for-mves-training/>

THE WORLD COMES TO TEXAS IN 2016!!

2016 International Tree Climbing Competition April 2–3, 2016, 2016 Brackenridge Park, San Antonio

In addition to the competition, next year's ITCC will offer demonstrations of safety and best practices, industry vendors, and many activities to engage the public. More at www.isa-arbor.com/events/eventsCalendar/index.aspx?ID=2425

2016 ISA Conference & Trade Show August 13–17, 2016 Fort Worth

Save the date! The world's premier gathering of arboricultural professionals comes to Fort Worth next year.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Certification Central: BCMA Exam News and New Cert App Requirements

ISA has temporarily suspended the administration of the current Board Certified Master Arborist® (BCMA) exam as of June 1. The targeted launch of a new and improved BCMA exam is set for late 2015. Also, revised certification handbooks and applications for all other certifications have been released, requiring objective evidence of candidates' eligibility. Revised handbooks and applications have been posted on the ISA website, www.isa-arbor.com/

"Find an Arborist" Online Tool: Helping Promote ISA Professionals

Are you maximizing your exposure to the public by listing yourself in the online "Find an Arborist" search tool on the TreesAreGood.org website? If not, get started today!

Using GPR to Locate and Preserve Tree Roots

Read about a study that examined ground-penetrating radar (GPR) as a way to locate and preserve tree roots on development sites. It's at the TREE fund website, <http://www.treefund.org/archives/323>.

ISA Product Spotlight

Two new books are now available at the ISA website: *The CODIT Principle, English Edition*, and *Documenting Evidence – Practical Guidance for Arborists*. These are both must-have additions to your library of arboricultural resources. Also featured are products that will help you identify landscape pests and wood decay fungi in the field, and a special 50% discount on customized vehicle decals! Go to the shop at www.isa-arbor.com



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I always wanted to be a tree!!

by Treeemendous Tom
aka Steve Houser

Ever wonder what it is like to be a tree? Gently swaying in the breeze or standing at attention to survive all that Texas weather has to offer. The sunshine would make you smile but an ice storm would make you frown. A snow storm could give you some very cool clothes but too much white would not be a good thing.

Being a tree, you would never have to deal with politics, money, taxes, unreasonable people, or idiot drivers. Buying insurance or dealing with relatives...not a worry. I could grow to like this tree gig thing. I think I would much rather be...a tree.

I wanted to be a tree for so long...I eventually became one. Not all at once. First there were a few leaves that appeared in the hair and I tried to ignore it. As my skin started to turn to bark, it became tough to ignore. I always wanted to be a tree but...I never thought I would grow into one. It seems to happen only on the night before an Arbor Day, Earth Day, or Farm Day event. I wonder if there is always a full moon on the night before or if it is just a coincidence? Ok, I am just teasing.

Someone needed to develop a tree costume because the one that shows up at Earth Day Texas each year stands on stilts and scares the hell out of the children. Not the ideal image of trees for children. Surfing the internet did not find anything close to looking like a nice talking tree. The first costume designer that was contacted wanted to cover the costume in ivy leaves, but a Swedish ivy blob was not our goal. She just did not understand that a tree man must look like a cool tree and not a house plant. Eventually, a seamstress and friend that had done some costume work, Christie Yarbrough, and another friend, RuthAnn Jackson, offered to help.

As various parts were developed, we decided not to build a frankentree suit

but rather, a nice talking tree that handed out "Trees are the Answer" bumper stickers and educated others about the benefits of trees. Sounds easy, but developing an ivy blob is not the same as a talking tree that actually has a root flare.

According to some, the first versions of the costume looked more like a "camouflaged sniper." Not quite the look we were going for. My daughter laughed and made me swear not to tell anyone my real name. Not a good sign. Others gave a look that was worth a thousand words...call the men in the white coats. Needless to say, being a tree sounded more psychotic than fun.

To avoid embarrassing family and friends, we developed a name and proclaimed him to be "Treeemendous Tom, the Tree Education Guy."

The first steps of Treeemendous Tom involved carefully walking into the crowd at Earth Day Texas to avoid any root damage. Most were laughing and accepted a bumper sticker. Other reactions:

- Most of them wanted their children to hug Tom for a photo. One small girl had her photo taken but happened to see my boot sticking out from under a root. She yelled out loud. "Mommy look at that, he is not a real tree...there is a boot under there." We laughed until we cried.
- A few would see me and run the other way to avoid having to deal with some crazy tree guy who must be selling something.
- Some just had a look that says "you really need some serious help there pal."
- A few passed and yelled "I am groot" and a limb was raised in recognition. (Makes no sense unless you saw the movie *Defenders of the Universe*.)

- As a few friends approached, I asked if they wanted a sticker. Afterward, I would say something that only a friend would know about. They always responded by saying "Do I know you?" Of course my response was something even more personal and they responded with "Who the hell are you?" By this time, the laughter was hurting my sides, especially when they figured out my identity.
- Folks with displays wanted a photo of Treeemendous Tom in their booth to post somewhere. Likely with a note that says "it appears one of the Austin weirdos was in attendance."

It was cool being a tree for a day, but the dogs that came near my roots started to become a worry. I may look too much like a tree!! All I need next year is a few little acorns and saplings to walk with me.

By the way, my botanic name is *Quercus houserii*. ■



2015 Texas A&M Forest Service Arboriculture Field Day

by Zaina Gates, East Texas Regional Urban Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service

The Texas A&M Forest Service held its annual arboriculture field day May 20 at the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building on the Piney Woods Native Plant Center grounds at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. TFS staff, including resource specialists, foresters, and wildland urban interface specialists, attended and learned about the agency's role in urban forestry within Texas communities, structural pruning methods for young trees, tree risk assessment, right tree right place, tree ID, and how to correct tree root issues prior to planting to improve tree establishment and survival.

TFS urban foresters Oscar Mestas, Paul Johnson, Zaina Gates, Brad Hamel, and Mark Kroeze instructed the learning stations. Students used all types of pruning tools to practice proper pruning cuts, got their hands dirty practicing root washing on tree rootballs, and participated in a mock city council meeting to debate pros and cons of urban forestry. The students' positive response to the outdoor hands-on learning experience is what makes this a successful annual event. ■



Dustin Palmore (l), resource specialist, Carthage District office, and Michael Tiller, WUI specialist, Nacogdoches office. Photo by Regina Rodrigues, business associate, Nacogdoches office.



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Texas Tree Climbing Championship 2015



by Kevin Bassett,
2015 TTCC Chair

Wow!!! What a week! We were blessed with perfect, although very warm and humid, weather throughout the event.

The week for the TTCC began on Wednesday with the best setup team ever! An 11-man crew set up all six climbing events. Two bucket trucks (special thanks to the City of Fort Worth and Integrity Tree Care for allowing us to use their equipment and operators) and 11 men accomplished the job in eight hours. It was indeed a job well done!

Thursday's workshop was by North American Training Solutions' lead instructor, Phillip Kelley, who brought great useful information on aerial rescue techniques and rigging techniques. Thank you, Phillip! To those of you who attended, I am sure there was some serious learning going on, and the benefit of attendance will be helpful to you for your entire career. Those of you who missed it, I can only give you my regrets. You missed out on one of the best seminars for tree workers I have seen delivered. We had about 40 attendees total, and it was a successful educational event.

Friday was, and always is, one of the most hectic days for me. Somehow, head judge Guy LeBlanc and his team of judges and technicians persevered and ran 33 climbers through the six preliminary events. Please find a list of the winners on the next page. We had very few incidents, and great sportsmanship and climbing skills were on display all day long. Climbers were helping one another, sharing techniques and taking on the difficult event setup.

Saturday brought the Master's Final and a celebration of our profession. Masters Challenge finalists included the usual suspects. Vicente Peña-Molina (2014 champion), Abram Zies (two-time champion), Jimmy Prichard (consistent Master's Challenge finalist) and Miguel Pastenes (seven-time state champion) were the Texas chapter contestants in the final, along with our guest competitor from Kansas, Bryan Brock, who earned his way into the final by placing fifth overall in the preliminary events. It's always interesting to see the different climbing styles and methods used ►

Above (l to r): Masters winners Vicente Peña-Molina, Jimmy Prichard, Bryan Brock (out-of-state guest competitor from Kansas), Miguel Pastenes and Abram Zies.

Below: Gear check.



◀ during the Masters' Final. The tree was an ancient bur oak, which has been used in the event going all the way back to the first Texas Tree Climbing Jamboree in 1983. The difficulty of the climb was increased due to the wide flat canopy, which makes for a lot of flat rope angles. Dealing with this type of structure was the bigger challenge of the climb.

In the end, Miguel Pastenes won his eighth title, followed by Vicente Peña Molina, Abram Zies and Jimmy Prichard. These climbers have been dominant in the event for the last decade. However, there are several other climbers who are beginning to challenge this particular group of elite Texas competitors, and as time goes on, I expect to see some of them break through and earn their way into the final.

Mark your calendars! April 2 and 3, 2016, the International Tree Climbing Championship will be held in San Antonio's Brackenridge Park. I hope many of you will volunteer to help with the event, and make Texas one of the most admirable chapters in the ISA. We will need some volunteers to help with site preparation later on this year. No date or scope of work has been determined, but please keep in mind that an opportunity is coming to help Texas put our best foot forward when we welcome the tree climbing world to Texas in 2016. It will have been thirty years since we last hosted the event in 1986. The ITCC will need our support, and there will be plenty of opportunities for joining the judging and technician team. This is a major opportunity to learn from the best from all over the world. My best advice is to take advantage of these opportunities, as what you will learn will stay with you for your entire career.

My heartfelt thanks go to each and every one of you who were involved as a sponsor, judge, technician, or competitor. Without you the event simply cannot occur. Next year's competition will select our contestants to the North American and International competitions. A time and venue has yet to be selected. Feedback from this year is welcomed in order to improve the event for the future. I look forward to your input.

I greatly appreciate the support I have received from each and every one of you. Till I see you again, "Tree friends are true friends." ■

the winners

Masters:

- 1st- Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd- Vicente Peña-Molina
- 3rd- Abram Zies
- 4th- Jimmy Prichard

Belayed Speed Climb:

- 1st- Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd- Jimmy Saucier
- 3rd- Joshua Dickens

Aerial Rescue:

- 1st- Abram Zies
- 2nd- Jimmy Prichard
- 3rd- Daniel Girard

Secured Footlock:

- 1st- Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd- Jimmy Saucier
- 3rd- Abram Zies

Throwline:

- 1st- Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd- Andrew Machuca
- 3rd- Jimmy Prichard

Work Climb:

- 1st- Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd- Vicente Peña-Molina
- 3rd- Abram Zies

Stihl Stocksaw Competition:

- 1st- Thomas Berger (won a Stihl top-handle 193 chainsaw)



Left: Future climber.

Below: Competitor walk-through for Work Climb event.



Right: (l to r): Kevin Bassett, TTCC Chair; Miguel Pastenes, 8th time state champion; the Houser Cup; Steve Houser, TTCC pioneer; and Guy LeBlanc, head judge.

Below: Tree rigging workshop instructed by Phillip Kelley.

Below, right: 1st place winner of the Stocksaw Cutting Competition, Thomas Berger, with technician Will King, and technician Kris Rasmussen.



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Meet the ISAT Board: **MATTHEW CHURCHES**

Matthew is program manager of corporate community relations for CenterPoint Energy in Houston. His primary focus is environmental outreach initiatives. His job includes increasing brand awareness by connecting with the community, developing actions plans to address emerging environmental issues, and striving to expand public relationships in areas of community development, health and human services, and education.



Matthew joined CenterPoint Energy in December 2012. His previous ten years of work experience were devoted to the utility industry, including serving in a municipal role and working for a vegetation management consulting firm.

Matthew has a bachelor of science degree in environmental science from University of Nevada, Reno. He has been a

certified arborist since 2004, with additional certifications as utility specialist and municipal specialist.

In addition to serving on the ISAT board, Matthew is currently serving on the Texas Urban Forestry Council and the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council. He can be reached at Matthew.Churches@CenterPointEnergy.com ■

Wood used for computer chips!

University of Wisconsin-Madison engineering research and development team thinks a computer chip made mostly of wood could be the answer to potentially toxic, non-biodegradable electronics filling up landfills. Article and video at

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/UW-researchers-design-wood-based-computer-chip/33367730>

—Submitted by Patrick Wentworth



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A moment in wildlife conservation:

Banding RCW at Jones State Forest

by John R. Warner, urban district forester and certified arborist

Photos by John Warner and Ken Kramm, Heartwood chapter, Texas master naturalist and volunteer

Here is a wonderful glimpse into the world of endangered species management on one of the nation's largest managed urban forests.

Texas A&M Forest Service biologist Donna Work, along with Friends of Jones State Forest volunteers, were able to band five 6- to 8-day-old Red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW) May 14 at the William Goodrich Jones State Forest near Conroe and The Woodlands. The banding process allows researchers to collect data on overall health, attach bands for future identification, and track population numbers.

This location of endangered RCW is recognized by the North American Birding Conservancy as one of the world's most urbanized populations of RCW.

Hopefully, the state forest population will increase by eight to twelve RCW this year, with all the eggs seen while examining the cavities using a peeper scope and camera. These woodpeckers live exclusively in 50-year-old or older living longleaf, slash, loblolly and shortleaf pine trees.

The Eagle Optic Vortex spotting scope being used is by volunteer and Texas master naturalist Debbie Layer, and is one of three spotting scopes donated by Eagle Optics for assisting in RCW and wildlife research on Jones State Forest.

Each year, nearly 3,000 birders from all over the world travel to see a glimpse of the endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker and a dozen other bird species that call Jones State Forest home. ■



San Antonio Bilingual Arboriculture and Tree Care Workshop *by Mark Duff*

On May 13, the San Antonio Arborist Association celebrated its 6th Bilingual Arboriculture and Tree Care Workshop in Schertz. Over 260 paid participants, plus presenters and volunteers, attended the event, 115 in the English session and 145 in the Spanish session, with over 45 organizations represented.

While indoor morning sessions and outdoor events were planned, a severe storm during and after lunch unfortunately kept the crowds inside for the afternoon.

Introductory statements and welcome were provided by James Koenig, ROW forester from CPS Energy; Mark Bird, city arborist for San Antonio; Armando Cortez, city tree inspector for San Antonio; and Booker Arradondo, president of San Antonio Arborist Association.

Morning sessions in the English track were kicked off by Mark Kroeze, staff forester with Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) and track moderator, with an excellent presentation on tree identification. He also set up a dendrology quiz using cut

tree branch samples. This was followed by Paul Johnson, TFS urban & community forestry coordinator, with a riveting performance on professionalism. After the break, forester David Vaughan of Etter Tree Care shared his 35-plus years' experience on disease diagnosis, structural considerations and oak wilt. And then to top the morning off, the notable TFS forest entomologist Dr. Ron Billings delivered a talk on insects you need to know that damage trees in central Texas.

Morning sessions in the concurrent Spanish track began with Mark Duff, TFS staff forester and session moderator, with his usual talk on oak wilt identification and management. Next, Fernando Figueroa owner of Curv Appeal, captivated the audience with his presentation on professionalism in the arboriculture Industry. Patty Charqueno, safety director from California of McCoy Tree Surgery, gave a no-nonsense talk on accident prevention.

During lunch, and for the afternoon program, the room was opened up to all participants for simultaneously translated presentations. Carlos Llanos, forester/certified arborist and ►



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owner of Asesorías Forestales from Colombia, gave his talk on utility clearance, arboriculture and safety from the Latin American perspective, while Mark Duff struggled to keep up with Carlos by repeating in English most everything that was said in Spanish. A quick recovery ensued when Eduardo Medina, safety trainer from Davey Tree out of Chicago, delivered an entertaining safety course by bouncing between English and Spanish as necessary for greatest effect.

By juggling the originally-planned outdoor sessions and creatively modifying them for acceptable (or not) indoor use because of the rain, we did what we could inside the building.



Demonstrating what happens when leaves touch electrical conductors.

First in line was Tim Jackson, district manager for the Davey Tree Expert Company in San Antonio, who gave a hands-on presentation on chainsaw safety, with Eduardo Medina providing a Spanish translation. Next, Eduardo provided a bilingual pruning and safety demonstration with active audience participation. This was followed by an arc demonstration by staff from Guadalupe Valley Electrical Cooperative, who showed off electrical hazards by burning up a couple of hot dogs to simulate fingers, and some branches with leaves against conductors. Several nervous observers noted the sprinkler systems directly above the smoking demonstration. Finally, the last known recipient of the BCMA credential, Dayton Archer, owner of The Tree Doctor business of San Antonio, showed a video on the benefits of air spades working around trees. This was followed by Mark Duff, translating Dayton's air spade recommendations.

ISA CEUs were offered, as well as a certificate of training by the City of San Antonio to qualify for hours required to maintain San Antonio tree maintenance licenses. A raffle was held where winners took home climbing ropes, chainsaws, pole saws, hand pruners and other donated items. Several booths were present in the atrium including a Vermeer sale event, ISA Texas, San Antonio Arborist Association and Texas A&M Forest Service.

The San Antonio Arborist Association would like to thank the City of Schertz Community Center staff for accommodating the group and for their excellent help in organizing and running the event. The **date for next year is set for March 1, 2016** at the Schertz Community Center. Stay tuned for further details as we work to bring in speakers and topics of interest to improve safety and tree care quality for our profession.

Also, a special thanks to the planning committee is in order: Booker Arradondo; Jacob West, Bartlett Tree Experts; Ross Hosea, Mark Bird and Armando Cortez, COSA; James Koenig, CPS Energy; John Giedraitis, ISA Texas. ■



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Leveraging local resources to preserve the urban forest:

Denton uses Tree Mitigation Fund to pitch citywide tree planting initiative

by Lauren Barker, Program Manager/Executive Director, Keep Denton Beautiful, Inc.

Nonprofit organization Keep Denton Beautiful (KDB) (www.kdb.org) is no stranger to community tree programs. As Denton's local Keep America Beautiful/Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate – and a card-carrying member of organizations like the Arbor Day Foundation, Alliance for Community Trees, and the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council – KDB takes an active leadership role when it comes to educating citizens, young and old, about tree planting, and providing resources for people to plant and care for trees.

Over the last 10 years, KDB has given away and planted a total of 18,500 seedlings and another 10,700 container trees; records indicate this number would be at least doubled when taking the organization's full 27-year history into account. All of KDB's tree programs are administered through the nonprofit lens of limited resources and community partnership, meaning that the programs are largely underwritten by individual and corporate supporters, grants, and other contributions. With a full-time staff of just three employees, KDB also relies heavily



Volunteers at KDB's Annual Community Tree Giveaway

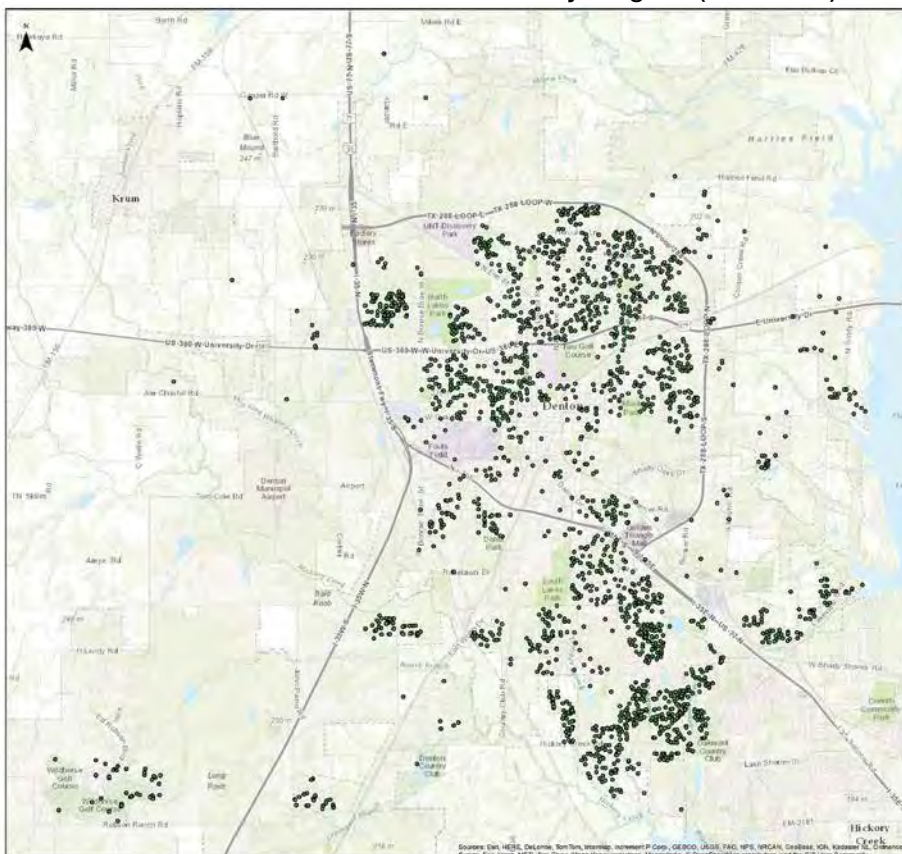
on community volunteers for word-of-mouth publicity, public education, and the hardest part of any tree program – tagging, sorting, and hauling lots and lots of trees!

With KDB's longstanding emphasis on tree planting in Denton, it seemed fitting that the organization should take on an active role in shaping the conversation around tree planting and tree preservation efforts for the city. This conversation came to

the forefront in September of last year, when the sitting Council directed city staff to begin using Denton's developer-financed Tree Mitigation Fund (TMF) for its intended purpose of planting trees. At the time of this meeting, the fund had amassed more than \$2 million since it was first established ten years prior, and not a single dollar had been used to plant trees. In fact, the TMF had only ever been used once: to conduct a flyover canopy study in 2010 that showed Denton's urban tree cover was at a strikingly low 19%.

At KDB, we knew this conversation was a tremendous opportunity to do what we do best – provide quality tree planting programs with minimal resources – and leverage the TMF for the long-term benefit of the community's urban forest. Over the next few months, we worked closely with the City's urban forester, the Planning Department, and Parks & Recreation staff to develop an initial plan for using TMF to plant new trees in Denton. This plan was presented in March of 2015, resulting in \$10,000 ►

Distribution of Trees – KDB Tree Giveaway Program (2010-2015)



◀ in funding for KDB to expand and enhance its Arbor Day festivities. This included a ceremonial tree planting, donations of 3-inch caliper bur oak trees to local school campuses, improved education materials, and new road signs to advertise Denton's 23-year tenure as a Tree City USA. For KDB, an organization with an annual program budget of just \$65,000, this funding was quite a game changer. Attendance at our Arbor Day event, the Denton Redbud Festival, grew by 30%. Local news feature stories and social media views spiked. We received some of the most encouraging, inspiring feedback from participating students and teachers in our school-based Children's Arbor Day program.

Incredibly, the momentum has kept up. In early May 2015, on behalf of KDB, I presented a plan to the Denton City Council to use an additional \$835,000 in tree fund money to give away 12,000 new trees to Denton residents and businesses over the next three years. The proposed plan consists of four main program approaches: 1) small-scale neighborhood giveaways; 2) a business-targeted NeighborWoods program; 3) continuation of the enhanced Arbor Day activities with assistance from the Tree Fund; and 4) a large tree rebate program, which will provide \$50-per-tree rebates to Denton citizens who purchase qualifying native tree species from approved local vendors. To complement this large tree distribution effort, the plan also included funding for increased public education, and an annual citizen forester training course. The full plan proposal and backup information can be viewed in the City of Denton meeting file archives (see link below).

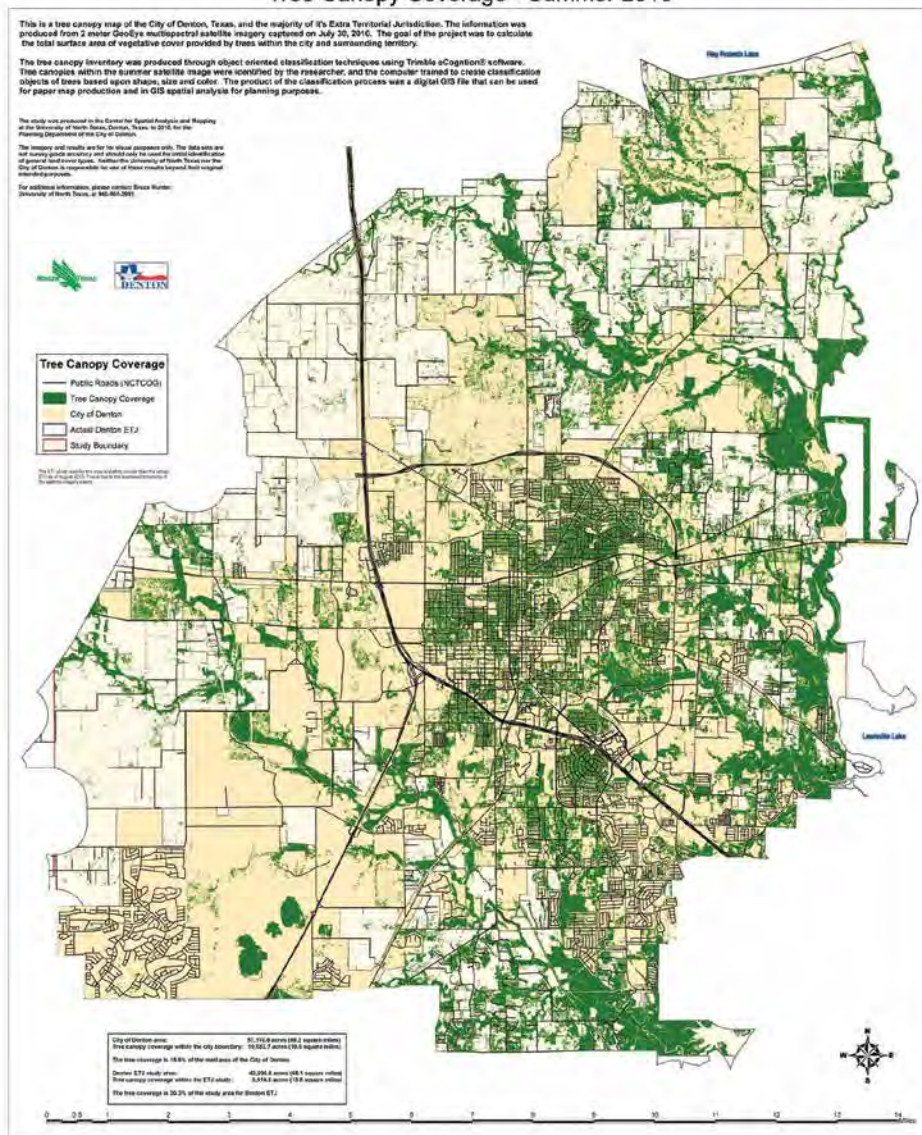
I'm pleased to report that our plan for a private property tree planting initiative was well-received by Council. We are on

track to begin implementing the first program this fall, pending one final hurdle: an update to the City's tree code which would allow for tree funds to be used in the purchase and planting on private property. This proposed update is expected to go to the City Council for approval in July.

With any luck, we will be working with citizens this fall to give hundreds more trees a new home in Denton! ■

City of Denton and Extra Territorial Jurisdiction

Tree Canopy Coverage - Summer 2010



News media coverage of City Council Tree Fund discussion: <http://www.dentonrc.com/local-news/local-news-headlines/20140916-tree-canopy-concerns-envelop-council.ece>

Agenda and backup documents from City Council Presentation: http://legistar2.granicus.com/denton-tx/meetings/2015/5/1007_A_City_Council_15-05-05_Meeting_Agenda.pdf

To learn more about Keep Denton Beautiful's tree programs, visit <https://kdb.org> or contact KDB Program Manager/ Executive Director Lauren Barker at lauren@kdb.org

After the Storm FLOODING

Caring for damaged trees

It is especially important in the initial days of a flooding event to take action.

When there is a flood, there are things you can do to reduce safety hazards caused by downed and damaged trees and protect the trees still standing.

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/content/article.aspx?id=21926>

Time for repellents

by Mike Merchant. Posted May 22 at Insects in the City, a website of Texas AgriLife Extension. Original post (with more links!) at <http://citybugs.tamu.edu/2015/05/22/time-for-repellents/>

Yesterday the Texas Department of State Health Services announced the first 2015 case of West Nile virus in Texas. Coincidentally, Dallas County Health and Human Services issued a health advisory reported the first positive mosquito pool of the year was collected Wednesday.

And to add insult to injury, this week my wife and I both got our first chigger bites of the year. All of this is a good reminder that summer is around the corner, and that insect repellent is our best defense against the less savory insect and mite characters lurking out there.

The best way I've found to be consistent with my use of repellent is to keep a spray bottle just outside my doorway. That way I am reminded, even if I'm only out for a short while, to spray exposed skin. Similarly, keeping a repellent in your car is a very good idea.



There are very good formulations of DEET out these days, many with low odor, and in several different forms: wipes, creams, pump sprays and aerosols. DEET has some of the best persistence; however there are good alternatives to DEET if you aren't going to be outside very long. The U.S. Environmental Protection agency provides a repellent calculator (<http://www2.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you>) to help you dial in your needs and find the repellent you like best and will use consistently.

West Nile virus is something everyone should take seriously. If you haven't taken part in the Mosquito Safari, this is a great time to take the tour at mosquitosafari.tamu.edu/.

The natural repellent, lemon oil of eucalyptus, is a good alternative to DEET for those who prefer organic. The important thing is to find a repellent you will use, and use it. ■

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