



In the shade



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
June, 2018

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President's Letter

Micah Pace



In the Shade

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In the Shade
June, 2018
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ON THE COVER

Star Quintero (l) and Miguel Pastenes were winners of the 36th annual Texas Tree Climbing Championship May 18-19 at Getzendaner Park in Waxahachie— a new venue for the TTCC.

Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet; one need only own a good shovel.

*From Pines Above the Snow,
A Sand County Almanac*

— Aldo Leopold

Summer is finally here! Your ISA Texas Board and Executive Committee continue to organize and run useful educational programs to promote professionalism in arboriculture around the state. During a busy April and May we sponsored many great events, in particular the 2018 Texas Tree Climbing Championship, to which this edition of the *In the Shade* is dedicated. A huge thank you to Markus Smith, chair, and Jim Dossett, head judge, for their leadership, and congratulations on a very successful event. Thank you also to all the men and women who volunteered to help plan, promote, organize, and run the TTCC, as well as these other recent events:

ISA Texas Strategic Planning, Waco, April 5-6;
Tree Worker Climber Specialist Written and Skills Exam, Austin, April 6;
ISA Texas Masters' Series: Health Care for Senior Trees, San Antonio, April 20;
ASLA Texas Chapter Conference (Booth), Galveston, April 18-20;
Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist and Utility Specialist Test, Amarillo, May 1;
TRAQ Renewal with Skip Kincaid, College Station, May 1;
TRAQ Course and Assessment with Skip Kincaid, College Station, May 2-4;
Oak Wilt Qualification Course and Assessment, Temple, May 10-11;
Pre-TTCC Tree Climbing and Work Positioning Workshop, Waxahachie, May 17.

Please visit the ISA Texas Calendar of Events (isatexas.com/events/) often to plan your next workshop attendance. Please mark your calendars for **September 26-28, 2018** to attend the **38th annual Texas Tree Conference** in Waco. Want to volunteer? We need you! Want to donate something to the silent auction? We want it! Please contact Emily King, 2018 TTC chair, at emily.king@austintexas.gov for more information and opportunities.

Coming Soon! Registration for the 2018 Texas Tree Academy, Conference, and Trade Show

The ISA Texas board and the strategic planning committee are currently developing drafts for ISA Texas' 3-year strategic plan that will help outline important ongoing organizational tasks as well as a prioritized list of innovative goals to help build capacity and improve member services. Our goal is to complete the plan and have copies available for the membership by the conference.

I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the membership as your president this year. Feel free to email me at micahp@preservationtree.com or contact our executive director, John Giedraitis, if there are any specific concerns or assistance you need.

Thank you for all you do to make Texas arboriculture such a great industry.

Sincerely,

ISA Texas President 2017-2018

36th annual Texas Tree Climbing Championship

by Jim Dossett

The Masters' Challenge competitors check out the tree prior to beginning. (Photo by Joe Lawton.)

The ISA Texas chapter hosted its 36th annual Texas Tree Climbing Championship May 18-19 at a new location— Getzendaner Park in Waxahachie. Getzendaner is a beautiful park with huge bur oaks, pecans, red oaks, cedar elms, and even an occasional black walnut. Much like the competition it hosted, the park had a sampling of the best Texas has to offer.

Chapter volunteers arrived in Waxahachie on Tuesday to begin preparing the park for the competition—pruning the massive trees and setting up a challenging and exciting course to test the mettle of the state's best climbers along with several out-of-state competitors. On Thursday, the chapter hosted a bilingual workshop on stationary rope climbing systems. Led by Phil Kelly and Carlos Rodriguez of North American Training Solutions, the class focused on how to get the most out

of the latest techniques and devices to make the work of production arborists safer and more efficient.

The event kicked off on Thursday night at the gear check where all the competitors brought their gear to be checked for safety. For our volunteers, who began their day at 7am, the 5-9 pm gear check capped off an exhausting but fruitful day.

The preliminary events began early Friday morning, and competitors and volunteers alike worked diligently to have a safe and exciting competition. Over the years, those of us who have volunteered have grown accustomed to seeing the same determined faces working their hardest to be crowned champion. This year, however, it was equally exciting to see a new crop of Texas climbers. Our industry continues

to grow in the state and continues to attract some of the toughest, most talented men and women Texas has to offer. Seeing them gather at the championship was proof positive of the values that continue to persist in our industry—toughness, determination, a dedication to mastering our craft, and, above all, a commitment to safety.

The course this year was as exciting as the competition. The work climb was in an 80-plus-foot pecan that tested the competitors before they even rang the starting bell, which was located 70 feet in the crown of the tree. Designed to be a fast, compact climb, the event showcased the competitors' skill and we saw some incredible climbs.

The belayed speed climb, a mad 50-foot scramble, is a true test of sheer determination and stamina. This

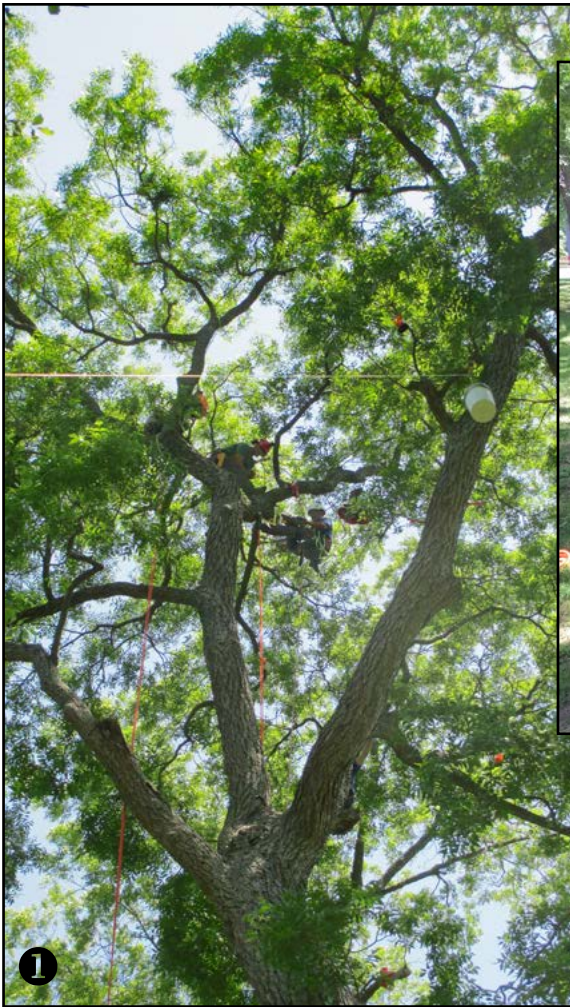


Photo by John Giedraitis

Photo by John Pinney

- 1. This year's work climb tree was a massive pecan.
- 2. 2017 TTCC Champion Jimmy Prichard is ready to climb.
- 3. The ascent event was new to TTCC this year. Here Keith Cooper demonstrates that his knot is secure for judges AJ Thibodeaux and Guy LeBlanc.

◀ beautiful bur oak climb, conceived and put together by longtime speed climb head judge Chris Brewer, was one of the toughest and most exciting we have seen.

The new techniques and devices taught at the workshop were on display in the competition as well. The new ascent event, which has replaced the footlock event, was a hit as climbers used myriad systems to outpace each other in a grueling 63-foot climb. In the end, the victor in the new event was Jimmy Prichard, with a blistering time of just over 17 seconds! A special shout-out to the ascent team is warranted; running a new event is a true challenge, and its success is a testament to the intelligence and dedication of the entire team. In

particular, AJ Thibodeaux (head judge) and Guy LeBlanc (head technician) ran a tight ship and set the bar high for future events.

Once again, the championship saw a growing women's division, with Star Quintero and Amanda Hancock returning to compete, and newcomer Tiana George joining the fray. All three had an excellent outing with Star finishing the preliminaries in fifth place overall! It has been a pleasure to watch these women compete and become stronger climbers every year.

Kirbie Houser and Kirsten Schneider once again led the scoring team and their contribution cannot be overstated. The

event literally would not happen without the amazing work they do.

At the end of Friday, the scores were tallied, and the competitors who would advance to the Masters' Challenge were announced. In the men's division, Miguel Pastenes and Jimmy Prichard returned to the ring along with newcomers to the Masters' Challenge Keith Cooper and Andrew Machuca. In the women's division, Star Quintero and Amanda Hancock were set to challenge each other and the course.

The Masters' Challenge was held in a spectacular bur oak and challenged the competitors not only with height, but also with an equally intimidating spread. ▶

◀ Low rope angles, long limb walks, few good tie-in points, and a thick canopy put all of their skills to the test in a 25-minute and 30-second crucible.

Miguel Pastenes had a beautiful climb and finished with just a few spare minutes while Jimmy Prichard had one of the most nail-biting finishes in recent memory. Hitting the ground with just thirty seconds to spare, it looked like he would get in just under the wire when the line he was retrieving tied itself hopelessly around a branch, running out the clock. Fortunately for the Masters' team, Judge Nicolas Martinez was able to use his impressive throwline skills to untie the rope from the ground! Keith and Andrew had excellent runs as well, showcasing their increasing skills.

Both Star and Amanda worked the tree hard and had impressive runs also, timing out before finishing the course but showing the assembled crowd what talented and determined climbers they have become.

Top finishing out-of-state competitor Ephraim Taylor also showcased his skill on the course. As a past competitor on American Ninja Warrior, Ephraim was a joy to watch and had a nail-biting run as well, running out of time just before ringing the final bell.

In the end, it was Miguel and Star who took home the top honors this year. With impressive preliminary rounds and skillful Masters' performances, their victories were hard-earned and well deserved!

This year, the Spirit of the Competition award went to Star Quintero in recognition of her positive attitude, ▶

Left: Matthew Klippstein explains the rules of the Husqvarna chain saw competition.

Right: This year, competitors, volunteers, and spectators were entertained by Bandsaw at an after party hosted by Howard Gee and TFS Urban Forester Mike Sills of Waxahachie.

NO	COMPETITOR	CHAPTER	OVERALL PRELIM RANKING	PRELIMINARY TOTAL (200 max)
27	Miguel Pastenes	Texas	1	154.28
15	Jimmy Prichard	Texas	2	128.54
13	Keith Cooper	Texas	3	128.21
32	Andrew Machuca	Texas	4	127.51
37	Star Quintero	Texas	5	135.67
17	Ephraim Taylor	Oklahoma (Southern)	6	116.86
30	Josh Galster	Colorado (Rocky Mtn)	7	112.70
33	Keith Stoner	Colorado (Rocky Mtn)	8	109.87
26	David Raines	Arkansas (Southern)	9	108.85
5	Eduardo Navarro-Rodriguez	Texas	10	102.03
19	Joey Camron	Texas	11	95.41
2	Carlos Garcia	Texas	12	94.59
42	Thomas Berger	Texas	13	91.55
10	Noberto Mendez-Olmedo	Texas	14	87.33
34	Isaac Schumacher	Texas	15	86.43
4	Jared Obrain	Texas	16	86.19
35	Kelly Hildebrandt	Texas	17	81.68
25	Steve Driskill	Texas	18	80.05
40	Joshua Dickens	Texas	19	71.88
14	Clayton Geer	Texas	20	68.00
21	Daniel Garcia	Texas	21	67.02
36	Federico Sandatte	Texas	22	64.50
9	Fredy Jimenez	California (Western)	23	61.77
3	Christopher Hutchinson	Texas	24	61.00
12	Amanda Hancock	Texas	25	80.83
38	Gerson Henriquez	Texas	26	55.62
18	Matt Twyman	Texas	27	48.94
16	Tiana George	Texas	28	64.90
22	Timothy Chavez	Texas	29	45.71
41	Stan Williams	Texas	30	42.00
11	Nicanor Buitron	Texas	31	41.52
1	Josh Parmelle	Texas	32	41.00
28	Jared Franco	Texas	33	39.87
39	Dustin Goodman	Texas	34	37.00
24	Clint Taylor	Texas	35	35.73
20	Carlos Henriquez	Texas	36	31.33
29	Ronnie Houston	Texas	37	31.33
31	Israel Velazquez	Texas	38	31.00
8	John Sullivan	Texas	39	23.22
6	Alex Benally	Texas	40	17.00
23	Oscar Dorantes	Texas	41	15.67
7	Melvin Salas	Texas	42	9.51

Photo by John Giedraitis



Photo by Micah Pace

◀ dedication to her craft, focus on safety, and her selfless optimism throughout the competition. Star truly embodies what this event is all about!

Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Kirsten Schneider in recognition of her years of volunteer service and her tireless dedication to the event.

The Climbing Championship is the chapter's biggest event focused solely on climbers and it continues to be an amazing experience for those who compete, volunteer, and come to cheer the climbers on.

Two years after taking the reins of the event from the venerable Kevin Basset and Guy LeBlanc, Markus Smith and I have once again walked away with pride from a safe and exciting event with a renewed drive to provide the climbers of Texas one of the premiere championships in the world. ■

Each contestant was required to have his gear checked the night prior to the competition.



Photo by John Giedraitis

For more TTCC photos,
go check out
<http://bit.ly/2018TTCCpics>

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

A huge thank you to our Texas Tree Climbing Championship sponsors, whose generosity makes this all possible. We'd like to recognize Burkett Tree Care; Arboriological Services, Inc.; Teufelberger; Bandit Industries, Inc.; Vermeer Texas-Louisiana; and ALL ABOUT Equipment LLC. And special thanks to our premier sponsor, Husqvarna, for their time and generosity. We could not hold this event without our sponsor partners and they deserve our thanks!



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ANSI ISO 17024 process overview:

How ISA Develops Credentialing Exams

ISA follows the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) ISO 17024 standard when developing credentialing exams to ensure that we are in compliance with all objective, established measurement techniques for specific skills and knowledge as well as governmental/legal guidelines. By following the steps below, we successfully develop an exam that remains defensible, reliable, and of high value to the industry.

Defining the Minimal Level of Knowledge to Become Certified

Eligibility criteria to apply for an exam is established to determine the minimal level of knowledge/ability an individual must have in order to obtain the credential. Validating an acceptable level of expertise within a specified area of knowledge holds considerable value for many reasons and requires an examination that is legally defensible and reliable.

Method for Determining the Exam Questions and Passing Score

Creation of a Job Task Analysis by Subject Matter Experts

A job task analysis (JTA) for an ISA credentialing exam is performed every three to five years to stay up to date with industry standards and practices. The JTA provides a comprehensive list of professional tasks that could be performed on the job by an individual who meets, but does not exceed, the eligibility criteria, allowing the opportunity for new knowledge and growth. Subject matter experts rate the tasks in terms of which are more critical as a result of having observed the evidence.

Analysis of the Tasks List

The tasks on the list are sorted from most critical to least critical. By applying mathematical measures to the sorted list, the number of questions on the exam related to each task are determined by how critical the task is determined to be. This process establishes the number of questions required for the exam.

Grouping of Tasks into Categories Known as Domains (Areas of Knowledge)

The number of questions for each area of knowledge determines how that domain is weighted in the exam. The ISA exam application handbooks (<http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx>) indicate the percentage of exam questions that will be tested for each area of knowledge. The Certification Exam Outlines page on the ISA website identifies the information that could be assessed on the exam.

Exam Creation

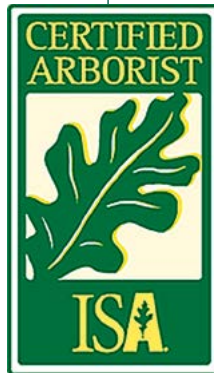
In a new exam or complete credentialing program overhaul, questions do not have existing statistical data to support

individual question validity and reliability. Testing of the questions is done to determine the questions that are valid and reliable, and then revise and retest questions that are not. In this process, a question bank is developed from which exam questions are drawn. Finalized exams are created using only valid and reliable questions which cover the required question content and allocation for the different domains.

Determining the Passing Score through a Passing Score Study

Subject matter experts use a scientific method to assign a difficulty level to each question, which relates to the population of the industry who should be answering the questions correctly based on eligibility requirements/ability level for each credential. The final values for each question are averaged to determine the overall passing score. ISA can then use these values to create multiple, equivalent exams until the next JTA is scheduled. While the passing score may increase or decrease from one JTA to the next due to content areas being more or less difficult, the probability of passing the exam based on the individual's knowledge/ability remains the same.

As advancements are made to best testing practices in the credentialing industry, as well as changes in industry-required knowledge, we adapt to ensure that we continue to provide valid, reliable, and legally defensible examinations. ■

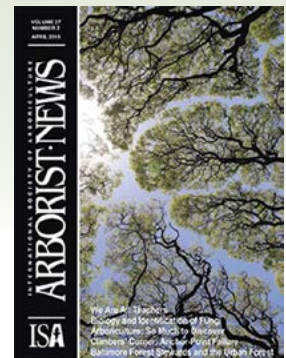


HELP WITH PASSING THE CERTIFIED ARBORIST TEST

by Steve White, ISAT Board Member

I continually come across folks striving and studying for the Certified Arborist test. Each time I ask if they are a member of ISA, and so many are *not*. That's when I suggest they join so they can at least receive the magazine that is absolutely loaded with information about our trees and our industry. It can help them learn and pass the test! Plus, reading about their industry makes a person more professional because of the knowledge gained. This is real!

So, my advice is JOIN ISA and select the magazine to be mailed to your home. Take the plunge and get on board and learn, learn, learn. If you are reading this and know somebody trying to become a Certified Arborist, then help us get the word out. They should join ISA and get the magazine coming to their home.



More Thoughts on Legal Liability for Risk Assessments

To the Editor:

Thank you for publishing the article by Greg David (“A Cautionary Tale,” April 2018) regarding the fallen limb which injured a two-year-old boy a few years ago. It was very well written and thought provoking, and I thank Greg for submitting it. There are several aspects of it that I wanted to share my thoughts on.

The main aspect that struck me (no pun intended) was how relatively small the limb was, and how high in the canopy it was. Not that I was surprised that it hurt someone; we all know it doesn’t take a limb of much size to injure someone, especially a small child, when falling from such a height (45 feet as stated by Greg). He states the overall length of the limb before breaking was about 33 feet, and that it broke about 7 feet from the union, making the fallen part about 26 feet. No diameters are given, but from the photos, it looks to be about 4 inches at the break.

He notes that the decay on top of the limb (which appears to comprise maybe a third of the diameter), “poor taper factor,” horizontal orientation, and overall length were key factors in the failure, and that all except the decay on the top of the limb should have been evident.

What struck me is this: I highly doubt I would have identified that limb as hazardous, *and I’ll bet 90 percent of us wouldn’t have either*. Greg notes that the arborist who did the assessment missed some obvious hazards in other trees on the property, and so is probably guilty of being unqualified to make such assessments, but I’ll bet that fact was used to hang her (we are not told what the settlement was) for something that almost all of us would have missed.

It is *the norm* for trees to have irregularities, especially in an urban setting, where the number of them is often compounded by years of improper pruning. Ash is one of several species that normally have long, heavy-ended branches (pecan is another). Half their canopies consist of such limbs, many in a horizontal orientation. Add a fungal canker, or maybe some sun scald, and the potential is there for at least one limb of that size to break on pretty much any given urban tree of this type at any time. And is there an ash, pecan or American elm that *doesn’t* have at least one included bark union of size?

In my opinion, it is nearly impossible to do an assessment thorough enough to catch all such branches, especially if we are talking about more than a handful of trees, if for no other reason than almost no property owners are going to pay for the level of assessment it would take, including

the requisite aerial component. I wonder what percentage of assessments that have been done on properties with, say, more than a dozen large trees included a 360-degree assessment of every branch larger than 4 inches in diameter. *What level of assessment should be considered adequate?* Can we even fully assess the risk posed by every single one of these irregularities? Are you going to apply a resistograph or tomograph to every single flush cut or canker? And if you did, how definitive is it? And are you going to cut every such branch off?

Humans have learned so much in the last 40 years about why trees fail. Those of us who are conscientious practitioners have made every effort to obtain and keep up with this information. Now, with credentials like TRAQ, we are advertising an even higher degree of knowledge. But this assertion can be used against us; we can be made out in court to be omniscient clairvoyants. I’m not saying we should not pursue such credentials, only that by having them we may be held to an impossible standard.

People often think that if they have an assessment done by an arborist that that arborist is therefore “on the hook” should anything bad happen at any point in the future. And if something obvious has been overlooked, one could consider the arborist negligent. But I’ll bet that far more often the degree of assessment has not been defined, and some common type of irregularity, probably only visible with an aerial assessment, which was outside the intended scope of the assessment, is what failed. This is excluding of course the probable majority of cases where no prior assessment was done at all.

Greg ends his piece by saying we are not required to perform “formal tree risk assessments on every property we visit” but we are expected to “keep our eyes open and report any hazards we observe.” I agree. But if you are hired to do an assessment, you better make the level of your assessment clear, *and* which trees are included. We are often called out to assess just one tree, and there have been cases where people have tried to hold arborists accountable for other trees on a property for which no assessment was requested. And you better make it clear that no matter how thorough the assessment, not every defect is visible.

I feel badly for the family whose son was injured. And even though I cannot sympathize with an arborist doing a poor job, I can certainly empathize with one getting sued for having missed something like this. This is a cautionary tale indeed, my fellow arborists. CYA, y’all...

– Guy LeBlanc

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Fire Blight Photo: William Jacobi, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org
Bacterial Leaf Scorch Photo: William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org



ISA Texas supports higher education through tuition scholarships



LaDestiny Nichols (left) and Tara Nathanson (right) received a \$1,500 scholarship from ISA Texas President, Micah Pace (center) during the 2018 SFA College of Forestry and Agriculture Awards Banquet in Nacogdoches April 9.

by Micah Pace, ISAT President 2017-2018, Consulting Arborist with Preservation Tree Services

ISA Texas President Micah Pace and ISA Texas Executive Director John Giedraitis attended the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture (ATCOFA) Awards Banquet and Convocation April 9 at Stephen F. Austin University. Led by Dr. Hans Williams, Dean of the ATCOFA and a key partner of ISA Texas, the evening was shared by university professors, staff, students, benefactors, and guests.

For decades, ISA Texas has provided deserving students in the fields of forestry and urban forestry, environmental and natural resource sciences, and horticulture with financial support to enable them to complete their education and pursue their dreams of becoming professionals in forestry or allied fields. We are proud that this small contribution may play a role in their future success.

This year's recipients from Stephen F. Austin's College of Forestry and Agriculture included Tara Nathanson, a junior urban forestry major and current president of the student ISA chapter, and LaDestiny Nichols, a junior urban forestry major. Each deserving student, both DFW natives, received a \$1,500 scholarship.

On April 13 John Giedraitis also attended the Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ecosystem Science & Management Award Banquet at the Ice House in Bryan, where Ryan Delgado, a junior, received a \$2,000 scholarship towards completing his degree in urban forestry. ISA Texas thanks Heather Haliburton Janke, Senior Academic Advisor with Ecosystem Science & Management, for partnering with us to help build the future of the industry. ■

Texas A&M Junior, Ryan Delgado (left), received a \$2,500 scholarship from ISA Texas Executive Director John Giedraitis (right), during the Texas A&M Ecosystem Science & Management Award Banquet in College Station April 13.





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WORDS OF THANKS ... from three ISA Texas scholarship winners

Dear ISA Texas,

Thank you so much for the ISA Texas Scholarship. This money will push me to keep doing well in school. I am currently a junior going on senior, and I am the current president of the Student Society of Arboriculture, SFA Chapter for the second year in a row. The forestry program here is tough, but I absolutely love it and cannot imagine doing anything else with my college career. After I graduate in December of 2019, I would love to work for the municipal side of urban forestry to benefit our state's cities. Once again, thank you so much for this scholarship. I am deeply honored to have received it.

Tara Nathanson, SFA Junior

Dear ISA Texas,

I wanted to extend my thanks to you. This scholarship will be a huge help to me. I am also very appreciative of the ISA Texas membership that comes with the scholarship. I really believe that professional societies are a huge help in one's career development and I believe this membership will help me as I start my career, especially going to the conference in the fall. I really appreciate the effort that ISA Texas puts in to grow the arboriculture profession in Texas. The work that y'all have done for the past few decades has made it easier for my peers and I to begin our arboriculture profession and find other professionals that know what they are doing and willing to aid us and help us along. Thank you for all that you and ISA Texas have done and for the scholarship and membership to ISA Texas.

Ryan Delgado, Texas A&M Junior

Dear ISA Texas,

I am both thankful and honored to have received the ISA Texas scholarship. This scholarship is truly needed to help pay for my education at the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture (ATCOFA).

Growing up in Dallas has enabled me to appreciate urban forests and realize the critical role of trees. Trees are literally always working for our benefit, and I think that is often overlooked. Additionally, there is a need for political goodwill to implement environmentally friendly policies that can steer forward the fight for a healthier environment. Thus, municipal arboriculture is my chosen career path. I intend to become an ISA Certified Arborist and through professional experience, hold the ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist credential. I would like to eventually form a non-profit organization that will empower and inspire minority youth and communities by promoting community forestry.

I hope to someday have the means to invest in education and provide financial support to students just as you have done for me.

LaDestiny Nichols, SFA Junior

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EVENTS

June 14–15

Oak Wilt Qualification Course and Assessment – Fredericksburg

Registration for this workshop is closed, watch our events page (ISATexas.com/events) for future workshops.

June 12, 12 noon

Webinar: Promoting Urban and Community Forestry Through Staffing, Volunteer Groups, Tree Boards & Ordinances

<http://bit.ly/webinar0612>

June 14, 11 am

Webinar: “Can We Enhance the Urban Environment with Non-native Trees & Shrubs?”

www.joinwebinar.com and enter the ID code: 586-200-731

June 22

COA Urban Forestry Presents: Tree Climbing 101

<http://bit.ly/COATreeClimbing101> (password TreesRule) Free.

August 5–8

ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show, Columbus, Ohio

A forum for the exchange of information, and opportunities to network with other professionals. A lineup of educational sessions led by industry leaders from around the world.

<http://bit.ly/2018ISACnf>

September 26–28

38th Texas Tree Conference, Waco Convention Center, Waco

Conference, trade show, academy, tree school, and membership meeting. Texas, national and international speakers, plus tracks for commercial, municipal and utility arborists. Plenty of time to socialize, network, and visit the exhibits.

<http://bit.ly/2018TTC>

October 19-21

Texas Women’s Tree Climbing Workshop

Mark your calendars now for the second annual Texas Women’s Climbing Workshop. <http://bit.ly/2018TXWTCW>



ArborMaster® Climbing Kit Prize Package

Thanks to the following companies for the ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package awarded to the winners of the Texas Tree Climbing Championship. This kit is intended to help equip the chapter winners to represent ISA Texas at the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC). Each prize package includes:

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ISA Texas Offers Senior Tree Care Workshop

by Micah Pace, ISAT President 2017-2018, Consulting Arborist with Preservation Tree Services

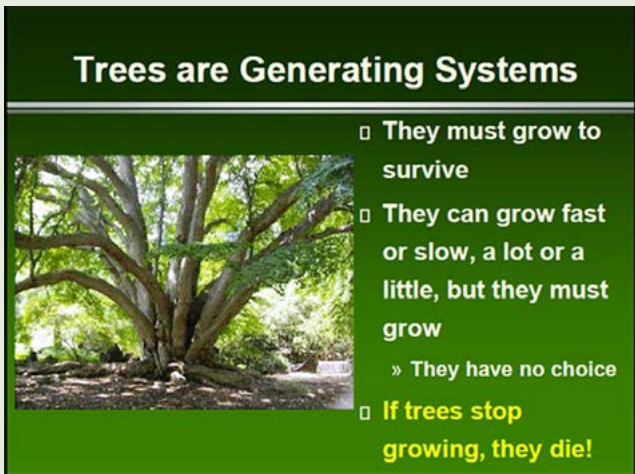
The University of the Incarnate Word, Mabee Library in San Antonio, was host to ISA Texas' Caring for Senior Trees Workshop on April 20. This successful event featured two highly experienced industry professionals: Dr. Rex Bastian, BCMA, previously with Care of Trees since 1989 and more recently with Davey Tree Expert Company, and Dr. Robert J. (R.J.) Laverne, BCMA, also with Davey.

Thank you to ISA Texas Directors Steve White and Evan Anderson for their leadership and passion to put this program together for our membership. A huge thank you to Davey Tree Expert Company for their partnership and support of ISA Texas and Texas professional arboriculture.

The master instructors provided important and practical information pertaining to the biology, benefits, and management of mature trees to the approximately 40 enthusiastic attendees. Trees, like people, are dynamic and change over time. Their management requirements therefore must also change. A strong understanding of the five main processes of trees – photosynthesis, respiration, transpiration, absorption, and translocation—is paramount to a successful management strategy for aging trees. Drs. Bastian and Laverne discussed how these life-sustaining processes are constantly in flux and overlapping with one another in search of equilibrium as the organism adapts to both biotic and abiotic stress factors in its environment. As arborists, we manage trees with the knowledge that trees are assets to our communities and that they provide a multitude of environmental, economic, and social benefits. Moreover, these benefits increase with the age and the size of trees. The more we can learn about the special care that our largest and oldest trees require, the better we can maximize those wonderful benefits that our customers value and depend on.

Another important concern discussed during the workshop was the higher level of risk that mature trees often represent. While the benefits typically increase with larger [older] trees, they can also pose more risk, given that maturing trees can impact a larger target zone and often tend to decline in health

and structure over time. Assessing the risk of mature trees is an important tool that professional arborists should develop if they plan to manage these valued arboreal residents of our communities.



Slide from Dr. Bastian's presentation discussing how trees function as a 'generating system' and must sustain its important processes towards the purpose of growth.

I encourage anyone who works with older, aging trees to visit the ISA Texas website to review the presentations that our guest lecturers so generously provided so our members can continue to learn more about the proper care of mature trees. If this topic is of use to you and you would like to see another offering for this workshop please let us know by sending an email to John Giedraitis, jpg@isatexas.com, or Zaina Gates, educational events chair, zgates@tfs.tamu.edu. I hope to see you at the next great ISA Texas workshop! ■

Instructors Dr. Rex Bastian (left) and Dr. R.J. Laverne of the Davey Tree Expert Company



Get your Zs – a Review of the 2017 Z133

by Daniel Cottier, Safety and Training Coordinator, Preservation Tree Services, Inc.

A strong awareness of safety standards is always important. With the release of the 2017 revision of the *ANSI Z133 Safety Requirement for Arboriculture Operations*, now's a great time to talk safety. Quite a few summaries and overviews of the changes from the previous 2012 version have been published, such as Tim Walsh's "ANSI Z133 2017 Update (Parts 1 & 2)" in Volume 27, Issue 1 & 2 of *Arborist News*. The question is, how are we incorporating these recent changes and complying with OSHA's General Duty Clause of providing a work environment free from recognized hazards?

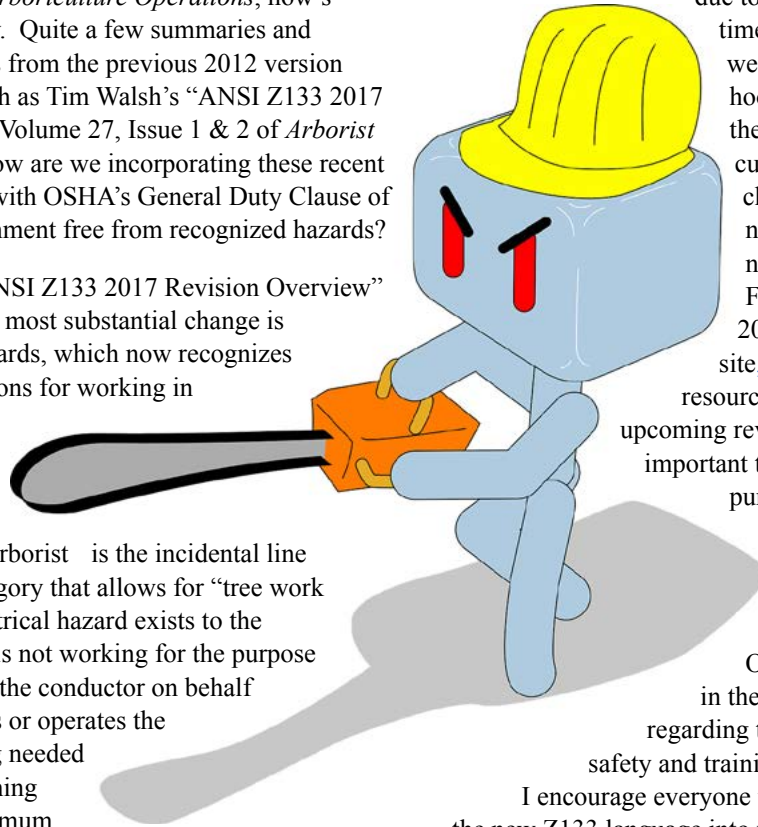
According to TCIA's "ANSI Z133 2017 Revision Overview" (bit.ly/TCIA2017Z), the most substantial change is Section 4, Electrical Hazards, which now recognizes three levels of qualifications for working in proximity to electrical conductors. Bridging the gap between the unqualified and qualified line-clearance arborist is the incidental line clearance arborist, a category that allows for "tree work performed where an electrical hazard exists to the arborist, but the arborist is not working for the purpose of clearing space around the conductor on behalf of the utility that controls or operates the wires/lines." The training needed to be qualified in performing this work requires a minimum of "distinguishing of exposed live parts from other parts of electrical equipment, determining the nominal voltage of exposed live parts, and minimum approach distances (MAD) specified in the new Table 2 (p. 7)." I think many of us find ourselves in this situation on a weekly, if not daily basis. As such, Preservation Tree will be adding an electrical hazard awareness program to our quarterly training schedule in order to meet these qualifications. Although the MAD in Table 2 exceeds that of OSHA's Table S-5 29 CFR 1910.333, we will also be working throughout the year to specify our own MAD that will be a compromise between Tables 1 & 2.

In addition, Tree Climbing Section 8.1.5 aims to reduce the incidents of one-hand chainsaw use by now *requiring* that "climbers shall have a hand saw available while working aloft." This rule applies to bucket truck operators as well, as stated in Section 5.2.13. For a great article on this topic, see Kevin Myers' article in TCIA Magazine's March issue titled "One-Handed Operation of a Chainsaw: Is it Ever Safe?" which will be referenced in one of our upcoming weekly tailgate training sessions.

Finally, Vehicles and Mobile Equipment Section 5.1.2.1 specifies that "if an inspection reveals a defect that could

affect the safe operation of the equipment, the equipment shall be removed from service." This standard can be challenging due to production loss resulting from time spent on repairs. In response, we've proactively added a versatile hooklift truck to our fleet that has the capability to load multiple custom beds such as chip boxes and chemical tanks in the event a truck needs to be shut down on short notice.

For a complete list of the 2012 to 2017 changes, see the ISA's Google site, bit.ly/ISAZ133, that is a full resource on the creation, evolution and upcoming revision of the ANSI Z133. It is important to remember that although the purpose of ANSI Z133 is to provide a guide for developing industry-specific safety standards, and even though compliance with its guidance is voluntary, OSHA can reference the standards in the absence of its own regulations regarding tree care operations. As the safety and training coordinator for my company, I encourage everyone to be proactive and incorporate the new Z133 language into your company's safety policy material and training sessions. ■



On May 2, ISA Texas hosted its first TRAQ workshop of the year. Pictured are Skip Kincaid and members of the workshop. For information on future workshops, watch the events page on ISATexas.com.

2018 TTC and Awards Nominations

by Micah Pace, ISA Texas President and Consulting Arborist with Preservation Tree

Now that summer is upon us, the annual Texas Trees Conference is right around the hot corner! As our chair and her team continue to put together another fabulous event, please make sure you've marked your calendars for September 27th and 28th for our two-day conference, and the 26th for the always insightful Tree Academy!

This year we bring back a combination of inside lecture on supplemental support systems and rotating field stations covering topics such as drone use, arboricultural tools and techniques, vascular injections, root management, dendrology lab, and field soil testing. Registration coming soon!

Additionally, please begin to think about nominating one of Texas' many great arborists, cities, and volunteers for one of the awards to be presented at the conference. We are looking for nominations for:

- Project of the Year—a great planting or urban forestry project;
- Arbor Day Celebration of the Year;
- Arborist of the Year—someone who exemplifies true professionalism and heightened level of technical skill;
- Volunteer of the Year—someone who has shown unsurpassed dedication to service, public education, and Texas arboriculture.

Please nominate someone from your part of Texas. The awards nomination form can be found at isatexas.com/members/awards. Visit the conference homepage (<http://isatexas.com/2018-texas-tree-conference/>) often for updates. ■



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“ I really see a difference in our employees that have become CTSPs, they became more involved in the creation, implementation, and adherence of our safety policies, and the ANSI standards. I think the program helps develop a culture of safe thinking; and that helps me sleep at night!”

– Bill Miller, Buckley Tree Service

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What's the Big **IDEa**?

Can you identify this Texas tree?



Hint: The ancient Egyptians would have loved this 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 next issue.

April winner



Last issue's winner was Pete Smith, Urban Forestry Program Manager, Arbor Day Foundation, who correctly identified the Chickasaw Plum, *Prunus angustifolia*, from last issue (after lots of back and forth on Facebook). He also provided this issue's challenge.