

# In the shade



**NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER**

Vol. 39, No. 6

March, 2016





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## Certification Exam Dates

### Certification Exam – Houston

**March 11, 12:30 pm – 5 pm**

(Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist, Utility Specialist)  
City of Houston Urban Forestry,  
12025 Sowden Rd.

### Certification Exam – Round Rock

**March 22, 12:30 pm – 5 pm**

(Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist, Utility Specialist)  
City of Round Rock Baca Center, 301  
W. Baghdad Blvd, Bldg. 2, Room 3.

### Certification Exam – Amarillo

**April 26, 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

(Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist, Utility Specialist)  
Amarillo College Business and  
Industry Center.

### Certification Exam – Fort Worth

**August 12**

Room 203B, Fort Worth Convention  
Center, 1201 Houston St.

For more information on any of the certification exams, contact Misti (Beirne) Perez, 512-965-1076. Certification information and application form at

[www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx](http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx)

As with all certification examinations the application must be in the ISA office twelve working days prior to the exam.

More information on Texas Chapter Certification and TRAQ at [isatexas.com/members/certification-and-traq/](http://isatexas.com/members/certification-and-traq/)

## ON THE COVER

**Riding the Big Tree:** Mark Kroeze watches from the ground as Guy LeBlanc completes aerial inspection of Big Tree at Goose Island State Park. See story on page 8. Photo by Kendal Keyes.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Vincent Debrock



Folks, I think we should re-work the expression “busy as a one- legged man in an a\*\* kicking contest” to “busy as an ISA Texas board member.” First, as this is going to press, a world famous guest, esteemed Frank Rinn, inventor of the Resistograph™, has flown in from Germany especially for us (yep, this is the International Society of Arboriculture). He presented a basic and advanced workshop over two days, going down into the nitty gritty of risk assessment, both in Houston and Austin. If you were not there, you missed out! Our industry has been focusing heavily on risk assessment the last few years and for a good reason: it brings credibility for our profession and is a serious affair. This is why this workshop was hands on, and designed to give you the edge in this field.

Second, hopefully you have checked out our new website by now ([isatexas.com](http://isatexas.com)). If not, hurry on over there to see this year's workshop and event lineup: the high value bilingual tree worker workshop, TRAQ, ISA certification exams, international climbing competition in San Antonio, Texas climbing competition in New Braunfels, and this is only until May.

Third, mark your calendars for the International Conference in Fort Worth, August 13 to 17, which will replace our traditional fall conference and bring the world (literally) of arboriculture to us. We hope to see you there!

### Hurry! Last minute to sign up for Bilingual Tree Worker Safety Workshop March 4

Learn from industry leaders at this popular workshop sponsored by ISA Texas and San Antonio Arborist Association. When: March 4. Where: City of Schertz Civic Center.

Go to [isatexas.com/event/bilingual-tree-worker-workshop-english-track](http://isatexas.com/event/bilingual-tree-worker-workshop-english-track) to register for either English or Spanish track.



### Chipper Operator Specialist

This course covers hazard awareness and procedures for hooking up, transporting, setting up, operating, and maintaining a chipper, and includes classroom and hands-on training.

When: March 11. Where: Bandit of Texas, 1430 Oday Road, Pearland.

More information at: [isatexas.com/event/chipper-operator-specialist-pearland/](http://isatexas.com/event/chipper-operator-specialist-pearland/)

## In the Shade

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## NEW MEMBERS

Tyler Barlow . . . . .	Pearland	
Jeremy Biggs . . . . .	Pearland	
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Sam Shackelford . . . . .	Fort Worth	
Ariel Sklar . . . . .	Houston	
Blake Snedaker . . . . .	Moore Tree Care . . . . .	Dallas

## Jim Rooni Earns Forestry Award

Jim Rooni, 18-year Texas A&M Forest Service employee, received the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for Public Service in Forestry. He is head of Central Texas Operations Department.

Jim has managed complex agency responses to a number of natural disasters including leading the recovery of the Lost Pines area following the Bastrop County Complex fire in 2011, which killed almost two million trees. He organized twelve public, private and non-profit organizations into one cohesive group, The Lost Pines Recovery Team. As a result, more than three million seedlings have been planted within the Bastrop County Complex fire footprint.

"The success of the restoration would not have happened without Jim's leadership skills," said Texas A&M Forest Service Associate Director Bill Oates.



## ISA Texas Joins Forest Pest Management Cooperative

by Ronald F. Billings, Texas A&M Forest Service

ISA Texas has joined the Forest Pest Management Cooperative (FPMC), becoming the coop's first supporting member. The FPMC was initiated in 1996 and is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year. Administered by the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS), the FPMC conducts applied research on southern forest pests, including seed orchard insects and diseases, pine tip moths, Texas leafcutting ants, and conifer bark beetles.

In recent years, the FPMC has expanded its research objectives to include pests affecting urban trees and forests. Research conducted to date has included urban tree issues such as oak wilt, pine engraver beetles, soapberry borer, and hypoxylon canker. With ISA Texas as a member, even more emphasis will be given in the future to forest health issues affecting trees in residential or urban settings. A recent FPMC survey of ISA Texas members, for example, revealed that the most important urban tree pest problems in Texas according to arborists are hypoxylon canker, oak wilt and invasive plants (see the FPMC newsletter *PEST*, December 2015).

The FPMC currently includes 12 dues-paying members, of which eight are full members: Forest Investment Associates, Hancock Forest Management, Plum Creek Timber Company, Rayonier, USDA Forest Service/Forest Health Protection and International Programs, Weyerhaeuser Company, and Texas A&M Forest Service.

Also, the coop has four associate members: Anthony Forest Products Company, Arborgen, Arborjet, and International Forest Company. Full members are organizations that own or manage over 100,000 acres of forest land and associate members are landowners overseeing less than 100,000 acres. ISA Texas is the first urban-oriented member of the coop.

Among the benefits for all members is a seat on the Executive Team, copies of the annual accomplishment report and publications, plus a voice in setting research priorities. The Executive Team, with one representative per member organization, meets at least once a year to review research progress and approve plans for research studies to be conducted in the coming year. Membership also entitles all participants or employees to a copy of the quarterly newsletter *PEST (Progress, Education, Science and Technology)*, which summarizes coop research findings and highlights other issues affecting forest and urban trees.

The FPMC is administered by Coordinator-Entomologist Dr. Ronald Billings from TFS headquarters in College Station. A small research staff comprised of staff forester William Upton, research specialist Larry Spivey, and staff assistant Patricia Faries is located at the TFS Forest Health laboratory in Lufkin. East Texas regional forest health coordinator Allen Smith supervises the field staff. To all members of ISA Texas, the FPMC extends a sincere "welcome aboard." We appreciate your support of urban tree pest research. ■

## EDITOR'S NOTE

by Rebecca Johnson



It's almost spring in Texas and each day brings new changes to the trees surrounding us. In keeping with the new growth, ISA Texas is offering many opportunities for our members to grow in knowledge and experience. Our Education Committee has kicked it into high gear to plan multiple workshops and trainings for this year.

Be sure to check out (and like and follow) ISA Texas' social media accounts: @ISA Texas on Facebook and @ISA\_Texas on Twitter; be among the first to know about arborist events around the state. Make sure you tag us whenever you see something you think will interest our members.

We're all very excited to welcome arborists from around the world to San Antonio for the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) in April. The ITCC committee has been busy lining up vendors and speakers to ensure that all of our members will have something of interest to them. If you're using social media during ITCC be sure to use the hashtag for the event – #ITCCSanAntonio. Also, be watching for #arboristsafety and #ilovetrees, two other hashtags that will be in use for the educational workshops and the Arbor Fair.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to all the contributors to this month's newsletter. If you would like to contribute an item to the newsletter, be sure to email me at [cercis11@gmail.com](mailto:cercis11@gmail.com).



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## 23 arborists from 7 cities turn out for work day: VOLUNTEERS GET TREES READY FOR ITCC

by Kevin Bassett

In preparation for the International Tree Climbing Competition to be held in San Antonio, April 2–3, a volunteer service day was organized to accomplish some basic tree pruning needed before the competitors arrive. A team of 23 Texas arborists from seven cities came to San Antonio to prune eight very large bald cypress, one huge pecan and a live oak to help get the trees in good condition for the upcoming event.

As the event coordinator/ chapter liaison to the ITCC, I can report that Texas put its best foot forward to get ready for our guests. The work plan ran incredibly smoothly as these professionals donated their time, money, skills and energy to get the site ready for the best high-angle climbing event in the world. Volunteers provided 161 man hours of crew time, representing an investment into the event of over \$13,600.00.

The ITCC site is located near the main entry into Brackenridge Park and the San Antonio Zoo. The trees are large and complex. They will provide an exciting challenge for the world's best tree climbers.

On a historic note, the last time the event was held in Texas was in 1986. The theme then was “Arboles para el Mundo,” or Trees for the World. The championship climbing events were held in the very same park as they will be this year. This year will be an anniversary of forty years of championship tree climbing. In that time frame, the industry has grown, and climbing

innovations have radically changed the very nature and safety of the industry. I believe these improvements have been driven by, and are a direct result of, the International Tree Climbing Championship and the supporting chapter and regional Tree Climbing Championships. These innovations and improvements have filtered down through the worldwide tree climbing community, resulting in a much safer working environment in day-to-day tree care operations. The value of this event to the tree industry is immeasurable.

As the Texas Chapter liaison to the ITCC, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who made this volunteer service day event an incredibly successful event. ■

The site for April's International Tree Climbing Championship.



Ross Hosea and  
David Vaughan



Thanks for donating use of equipment.



Guy LeBlanc & Jim Dossett planning work.



## Thanks to these people and companies for making the ITCC volunteer service day incredibly successful

**Kevin Bassett**/Arborilogical, Dallas – committee chair/site leader  
**Guy LeBlanc**/Arbor Vitae Tree Care, Austin – instructor/tree climbing team leader  
**Jim Dossett**/Bartlett Tree Experts, Austin – instructor/tree climbing safety/gear inspection leader  
**David Vaughan**/Etter Tree Care, San Antonio – site safety/ground support supervisor  
**Ross Hosea**/City of San Antonio – site safety/event coordinator  
**Mark Bird**/City of San Antonio – site safety/ground support/event coordinator  
**Ed Etter**/Etter Tree Care, San Antonio – crew support/chipping operations/site safety  
**Ezack Ramos**/Davey Tree, San Antonio – climber support/chipping operations  
**Leonard Arrendondo**/Davey Tree, San Antonio – climber support/chipper operations  
**Fred Breitbarth**/Breitbarth Tree Services, Waco – climber support/clean-up operations  
**Betty Hopper**/Hopper Tree Service, Dallas – climber support/clean-up operations

### *Tree Climbers/pruners:*

**Keith Babberney**/Austin Tree Experts, Austin • **Anthony Christianson**/Anthony's Tree Care, Fort Worth  
**Keith Cooper**/Tree Loving Care, Lubbock • **Chris Lathey**/Tree Loving Care, Midland  
**Kristoffer Rasmussen**/Fort Worth • **Joshua Rankin**/Fort Worth  
**Andrew Breitbarth**/Breitbarth Tree Service, Waco  
**Curtis Hopper**/Hopper Tree Service, Dallas • **Mario Ibarra**/Etter Tree Care, San Antonio  
**Miguel Ibarra**/Etter Tree Care, San Antonio • **Luis Carrillo**/Etter Tree Care, San Antonio  
**Nicolas Martinez**/Arborilogical Services, Dallas



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▶ See the video





# At Goose Island State Park: BIG TREE HEALTH EVALUATION AND TREATMENT PROJECT

by Mark Duff

Certified Arborists Brennon Magee, Guy LeBlanc, and Nevic Donnelly volunteered their time February 12 and 13 at Goose Island State Park near Rockport to do necessary maintenance work on Big Tree. They excavated the root flares with an air spade, climbed and removed dead wood, repaired the cabling system and inspected the lightning protection system. Ground crew and Certified Arborist David Vaughan, and Texas A&M Forest Service Certified Foresters Mark Kroeze and Mark Duff were also on site to assist climbers and provide further evaluation of the health and treatments for Big Tree.

Mark Kroeze, Mark Duff and ISA BCMA Paul Johnson (TFS Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator) provided a day-long workshop Feb. 12 on mature tree care, pruning, and chainsaw/chipper safety to Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel and parks managers. Morning sessions were held indoors at a CCC-era recreation hall on the park grounds. The afternoon outdoor sessions included pruning limbs

from the Little Big Tree nearby, and demonstrating safe chipping practices while disposing of branches.

Mark Kroeze and Mark Duff also led a pruning workshop Feb. 13 for TPWD personnel focusing on removing dead wood from live oak motts located adjacent to the Big Tree.

All the solid dead wood branches from Big Tree were saved and will be stored indoors to prevent further deterioration. Some of this wood will be cut and used as stock to turn pens and other small items, or cut into commemorative cookies, as was done with the Treaty Oak in Austin.

Recommendations for further work include: additional removal of sandy soil accumulations near the base of the tree if



needed, applying 5,000 gallons of water to the excavated area at the root flares, bringing the lightning protection system up to BMP standards, applications of one inch of formulated compost within the dripline, and applying a final cover of mulch consisting of mostly chipped live oak deadwood.

Catered barbeque lunches were provided to the crews by TPWD, which also provided chippers and compressors for air spade excavations of the root flares. ■



Kneeling: T.J. Hinojosa, Kendal Keyes, Mark Kroeze, Guy LeBlanc, Brennon Magee

Standing: Janelle Rand, Jarrod Boudreaux, David Vaughan, Mark Duff, Nevic Donnelly, David England, Ben Horstmann





# ITCC San Antonio

*Networking, Education, and Safety*

**1–3 April 2016** Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Texas, US

*with Arbor Fair and Expo*

Presented by



## Workshops

**Pre-Registration Deadline – 18 March 2016**

**Register online at:**

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/reg/event.aspx?EventID=2275>

## Hotel Information

***La Quinta Inn & Suites San Antonio Riverwalk***

**Phone Reservations:**

+1 866.527.1498 or +1 210.222.9181

*(Reference ITCC-2016 International Tree Climbing Championship)*

**Hotel Website:**

<http://www.laquintasanantonioriverwalk.com/>

*(Online reservations are not available for the ISA block)*

**Reservation deadline:**

11 March 2016

*(Rooms available at a discounted rate until this date or until the room block is sold out.)*

## Event Schedule

(subject to change)

### Friday, 1 April

8:00 am–4:00 pm	Structural Pruning Workshop
9:00 am–12:00 pm	SCA Practical Application of Z133 Workshop
11:00 am–4:30 pm	Arbor Expo
1:00 pm–5:00 pm	ASTI Chain Saw and Chipper Operation and Safety Workshop

### Saturday, 2 April

8:00 am–10:30 am	Soils and Tree Physiology Workshop
8:00 am–6:00 pm	ITCC Masters' Qualifying Events
9:00 am–4:00 pm	Arbor Fair and Expo
11:00 am–1:30 pm	Diagnostics—Pests and Diseases of Trees Workshop
2:00 pm–4:30 pm	Very Easy Tree Identification Workshop
6:15 pm	ITCC Awards Ceremony

### Sunday, 3 April

8:30 am–1:00 pm	Masters' Challenge
9:00 am–12:00 pm	Rigging Techniques and Knots Workshop
9:00 am–3:00 pm	Arbor Expo
10:00 am–2:00 pm	Arbor Fair
10:00 am–12:00 pm	Educational Workshop
1:00 pm–4:00 pm	Wildlife Laws and Nest ID Workshop
1:30 pm–2:15 pm	Head to Head Footlock Competition
2:30 pm–3:30 pm	SCA RakeMaster Challenge
3:30 pm–4:30 pm	TCC Tree Selection Workshop
4:30 pm	ITCC Awards Ceremony

**For event details visit: [www.itcc-isa.com/itcc](http://www.itcc-isa.com/itcc)**



# Not Your Average Removal

by Micah Pace, Urban Forestry Specialist, Preservation Tree



**A** quick disclaimer: This article is not written to serve as an instructional guide to the techniques of tree removal. There are many individuals far more qualified and experienced than I to offer such information, though I did (once upon a time) work in the woods in north central Maine...just saying. In all seriousness, tree removal work is some of the most dangerous work around and requires a safe and serious approach. There are professional training courses that teach proper safety and technique. If you plan to remove trees as a main part of your business, I encourage you to attend a professional training to learn more about proper tree removal and felling. Your crews, your clients, and your clients' neighbors will thank you.

Tree removal in the urban and suburban environment can be a challenging task – one that requires in-depth knowledge and experience with the techniques of tree felling and the use of climbing ropes and equipment. Safe tree removal requires an understanding of tree biomechanics, species-specific differences in wood density (i.e. weight) and strength, the potential for wood decay resistance, and perhaps more important than anything: knowing one's own limits.

Some tree removal jobs can be very simple. Felling a tree in a large open area, such as a park, would be an example of a basic tree removal that can often be accomplished right from the ground making a front notch cut(s), creating a hinge, and making a final back cut (i.e. removal cut), allowing the tree to fall in a pre-identified direction void of any conflicts. Proper felling techniques regarding hinge width (~10% of trunk diameter) and length (~80% of trunk diameter), the angle of the notch cuts, the proper use of wedges (if needed), and the proper planning for a minimum of two retreat routes established at 45 angles from the trunk (i.e. emergency exits) are all part of the methodology a tree care professional should possess and practice if they intend to remove trees safely. A good tree feller can drop a large tree onto a small ground marker a tree-length away every time.

However, removing trees within close proximity to structures, such as houses and buildings, typically requires well-developed climbing and rope skills in order to section the tree piece by piece and safely lower the cut material to the ground. This is the work that we as arborists and urban foresters deal with most often. Nonetheless, there are times when even the best climbing and rope skills alone are not enough to safely remove an urban tree. In these cases, more specialized equipment such as a crane may be necessary to assist in the removal process.

## Assessing

I recently completed a difficult removal job in McKinney (30 miles north of Dallas) that required professional crane service. The prospective client indicated that his usual "arborist" told him he needed to call more advanced professionals for this job. Kudos to him. . . . Step number 1: Know your own limits! I agreed to a site visit to discuss the work with the property owner. Upon arrival to the property, it was soon clear that this



was no ordinary removal job. Thirty-five years ago, this well-intentioned resident designed and built his home around three trees – one bois d' arc (yellow arrow) and two cedar elms (one in the center of the house (red arrows) and one in the back patio on right (blue arrow)) . . . prized specimens no doubt, but again, he was well intentioned after all.

Inside the custom home were two rooms approximately 6 feet by 8 feet with no foundation, complete with windows and doors accessible from inside the house, and whose ceilings were open to the sky. In one room grew a 38-inch diameter cedar elm. In the other room, a 28-inch diameter bois d' arc stretched to the sky out of the roof. Complicating an already difficult situation was the fact that the large cedar elm had a four foot long vertical crack in its trunk as well as a large (12") cavity on the back right side. The trunk was also resting on the edge of the roof at the top of the room 15 feet up. ►







- ◀ The large cedar elm with a vertical split (left) resting on the roof (middle), and the bois d'arc (right) were growing up through small interior rooms with glass windows inside the house. ▶

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◀ The third tree (photo at right) was actually outside. However, it too was growing directly along the side of the house. With large diameter trunks protruding up through the roof, all three less than a foot from the walls of the house, this would be no simple removal job.

Age, limited root systems, construction stress, and countless storms over a 35-year period have resulted in the decline of both the safety and functional value of the trees. The need for their removal was evident, but their relatively large sizes, the unique design of their growing space, and their close proximity to the house itself would require the use of a crane to safely lift and carry the cut material up through the roof and away from the house.



## Planning

Following an on-site meeting with a professional crane contractor, it was determined that a 115-ton crane would be used to handle the “picks,” or individual cuts, from an average boom reach of 60 feet. This size crane could easily hold 10,000+ pounds from the expected boom distance, so each pick was specifically assessed for weight and balance. An average weight of approximately 3,500 pounds per pick was determined using a species-specific log weight chart. The site was also assessed for logistical considerations such as placement of equipment (e.g. crane, trucks, chipper, trailer and front end loader) and material, as well as any potential hazards to the crew. A communication plan was also established to inform all the residents on the street of the pending work so they could plan accordingly for the temporary inconvenience on the day of service.

## Performing

The day of the job arrived and all the pieces were set in place to perform the challenging removals. A pre-job safety meeting was held, including the crane operator and his signal caller, to insure everyone was clear on the goals and steps for a safe job. I cannot stress enough how important good communication is on jobs with this high level of difficulty. We began with the large cedar elm in the center of the home. The tree’s canopy was sectioned out making the preselected picks accounting for weight and balance. The material was then lifted and placed in the street next to the chipper where crew members were ready to cut and chip the small diameter material. Large diameter branch and trunk material were lifted and placed onto the trailer directly by the crane or by the using the front end loader. This process was continued for each of the three trees. ▶







◀ The trunks represented the most difficult portion of the work since there was, quite literally, very little *room* for error while lifting the material up through the small rooms. I am proud to say that everyone worked safely and completed the project with no conflicts with the client's property and no injuries.

The trunks were securely tied off and lifted very slowly while the signal caller, using a 2-way radio from inside the interior rooms, communicated directional commands to the crane operator outside in the front of the house. One by one and piece by piece, the large tree trunks were sectioned and safely lifted up and away from the house. The stumps were cut to as low to the ground as possible, with the exception of the tree outside. I guess the owner was just not quite ready to let go completely... they asked us to leave a 2-foot stump outside their kitchen window.



After an 8-hour day, the three trees were completely removed, the site was cleaned, the

equipment loaded and stored, and I made sure to get out of there before the client could ask me about getting a stump grinder lowered in to the rooms! ■



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# 2,000 trees planted at 9th annual Houston Tree Planting Competition

by Mickey Merritt

More than 250 volunteers armed with shovels and buckets planted 2,000 trees in less than 2 ½ hours Feb. 13 at a stormwater detention basin in northwest Houston, at Houston Area Urban Forestry Council's 9th Annual Tree Planting Competition. The event was sponsored by the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council, the Harris County Flood Control District and CenterPoint Energy.

The Flood Control District provided pines, oaks, elms, bald cypress and other species for the 9th annual competition, which took place at the Hollister Stormwater Detention Basin, just south of White Oak Bayou at the intersection of West Little York and Hollister roads. Twenty 11-member teams in professional, amateur and youth divisions competed to see which team could plant 100 trees in the shortest amount of time – using only hand tools.

First place in the Professional Division went to returning champs Yellowstone (BIO), which turned in an impressive time of 16 minutes and 01 seconds. Davey Tree Company was second with a time of 38 minutes, 07 seconds.

Top three teams in the Amateur Division:

- First place, Coca Cola, Field Ops Team 2 – 44 minutes and 21 seconds
- Second place, Coca Cola, Sales Team 3 – 50 minutes and 20 seconds

- Third place, CenterPoint Energy – 51 minutes and 12 seconds

Top three teams in the Student Division:

- First place, Cypress Woods High School – 98 minutes and 33 seconds
- Second place, Memorial High School Team 3 – 112 minutes (planted 97 trees)
- Third place, Klein Oak High School – 109 minutes and 20 seconds (planted 70 trees)

Other teams represented included the U.S. Green Building Council, LUKOIL, Gensler, Fairmont Santroland and Clements High School. Many of the teams sported colorful team T-shirts, and each contestant received another T-shirt commemorating the tree event. The winners in each division also received a trophy.

Each 11-member team – 10 diggers and one captain – was assigned 100 trees in 5-gallon containers, a large mound of mulch, and a designated area. Teams worked against the clock to plant the trees according to established guidelines for correct hole depth and size, proper mulching, and other factors. Judges were members of the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council.

The new trees will help prevent erosion, improve water quality, decrease maintenance costs and beautify the Hollister basin, one of more than 130 stormwater detention basins in Harris County maintained by the Flood Control District. ■



## Texas Tree Climbing Championship 2016: Here's the Schedule

by Kevin Bassett, TTCC Chair

Once more we shall gather at the river in New Braunfels, where the trees are big, the parks are beautiful and the hospitality tip top. Here is the schedule of events for the Texas Tree Climbing Championship 2016:

**Wednesday May 18** – Event setup and site preparation, Cypress Bend Park and Landa Park

**Thursday May 19** – Arborist seminar featuring Phillip Kelley of North American Training Solutions. Phillip will present an all-day program with aerial rescue techniques in the morning followed by chain saw safety and cutting techniques for arboriculture in the afternoon. This is a unique opportunity to learn from one of the very best. There will be a total of 7 CEUs available for this important seminar.

**Friday May 20** – TTCC preliminary events, Cypress Bend Park

7:00 – 7:30 am: Check in. Don't be late

7:30 – 9:00 am: Gear inspection, event setup and event team training

9:00 – 9:45 am: Event walk-through

10 am – 4 pm: Event rotations, 36 climber maximum, 6 rotations, 5 preliminary events plus speed cutting event run concurrently

4 – 5 pm: Chain saw speed cutting finals, preliminary event scoring, event break down

5:00 – 5:30 pm: Announcement of finals qualifiers

**Saturday May 21**

TTCC Finals, Texas Tree Fair and Expo ■





by Jim Carse

The University of Texas at Austin has, for the eighth consecutive year, been designated a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

UT-Austin is one of approximately 17 college campuses in Texas to hold the designation. "It's exciting to work with

students and the campus community," said urban forester Jim Carse. "We have a lot of support from the UT administration to care for these trees."

In a recent interview with the school paper, *The Daily Texan*, Jennifer Hrobar, forestry supervisor said, "It shows our commitment to care for the trees, but we have [a] duty to take care of these trees, whether or not we get a designation."

The Landscape Services division of Facilities Services cares for the trees on main campus, the J.J. Pickle Research Campus, and various other UT properties in Central Texas. Each year, as part of the Tree Campus program, the forestry team hosts an Arbor Day celebration, meets with its tree advisory group, and holds several volunteer work days to improve the health of the campus trees and the landscape. ■

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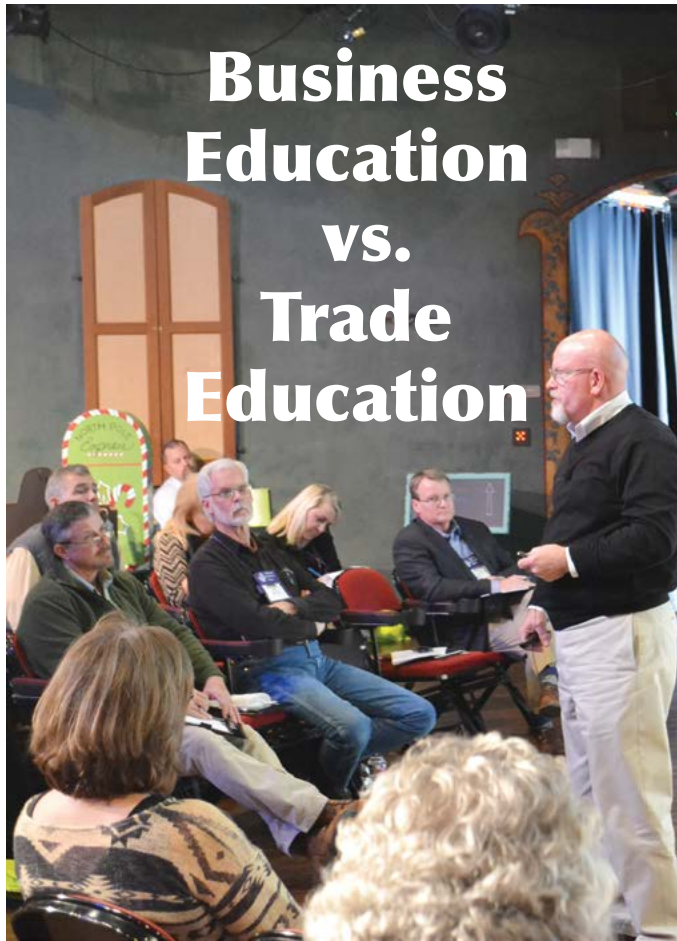
## Trees & Construction Workshop March 11

This workshop is open to anyone wanting to learn more about how construction affects trees. It will cover tree biology and how construction damages trees; preserving trees prior to construction/development; and treatments to save trees damaged by construction.

Where and when: Texas Forestry Museum, 1905 Atkinson Dr., Lufkin, Forestry Association classroom, March 11, 9 am–2 pm. No charge. Lunch on your own 11 am–noon. ISA CEUs available for Certified Arborists.

To register, send your name, title and contact information (email, mailing address, city, state zip and phone) to Zaina Gates at [zgates@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:zgates@tfs.tamu.edu) or call 903-657-2720.





by James Theiss, Certified Arborist,  
Texas Certified Landscape Professional

Poor business management leads to more business failures than anything else. Consulting arborists, landscaping, maintenance and tree companies are no different; we all enjoy learning about the latest research being done by our friends at the International Society of Arboriculture, Society of American Foresters, Texas A&M Forest Service, United States Forest Service, and many others. However not knowing everything about tree care will not usually cause our businesses to fail.

Understanding tree diseases, pests, hazard management, proper pruning and all other things a Certified Arborist needs to know is our passion; why don't we have the same passion to understand what makes a successful business not only survive, but thrive? Or even what it takes just to keep our business up and running?

A recent conference held by the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA) in Austin hosted national speakers who presented about all aspects of business management that apply to the Green Industry in which all of us work. Experts in business finance, labor, economic reports and strategic business planning were the highlights of the conference. These speakers touched on poor financial management, and how adapting to easy-to-understand financial basics is crucial in any small business.

One speaker hammered into the audience that misunderstanding or misreading the financial implications of your business leads to inevitable doom for your business. Being able to read a simple P/L (Profit and Loss) sheet is one of the leading "lack of financial knowledge" points that over 70% of business owners have. Poor collection policy was another "lack of knowledge" point that most business owners struggle with daily. These problems may sound like they have simple solutions, and many do, but the lack of interest we have in these practices, compared to our overwhelming interest in the leading chemical or organic compound found to control ips beetles (or the problem with girdling roots) is the main cause of our own demise.

Another speaker was focused on one of the toughest topics that all Green Industry businesses have these days: labor. Labor affects all of our businesses in one shape or form—often multiple shapes and forms. This nationally recognized speaker told about the "dependency ratio" based on the ratio of working-age people to those older and younger. He mentioned that due to this ratio, our choice in workers will become even scarcer, especially for the types of skills needed in the arborist's line of work. He also went into the H2-B program and what that means for all of our Green Industry businesses.

Education is key in our industry; we all know that. What many aren't aware of, however, is that education comes in many forms and by many entities. Although we should never stray away from the education that is needed in our trade, we should look more closely at what education is needed in our business. Knowing the difference between business education and trade education is the key to success. We can be the best arborist with the latest knowledge and technology at our fingertips, but if our business can't afford that technology or the knowledge classes that we are attending to gain it, what difference will it make? Don't just be a well-informed trade professional, be a well-informed business professional. ■

*The author is Professional Knowledge and Education Manager of the Texas Nursery & Landscape Association.*





# Inspección Diaria de Equipo de Tropa

por Eduardo Medina, Davey Tree Expert Company

Un factor importante en la vida del trabajador del árbol es el conocimiento, almacenamiento, uso y mantenimiento del equipo de trepa. Este artículo además de ayudar en la vida cotidiana al trabajador también puede ayudar durante el examen de Certificación para el Trabajador del Árbol e incluyendo el campeonato de trepa. Los requerimientos de seguridad dicen que: Los Arboristas (que se refiere a todas las personas que trabajan con el árbol) deberán inspeccionar las cuerdas, acolladores de seguridad y otro equipo de trepa por si esta dañado, tiene cortadas, abrasión, deterioración antes de cada uso y deberá de ser quitarlo de servicio de tener señas de uso excesivo o se es encontrado dañado.

**Cuerda de Tropa** – Deberá ser evaluada con una resistencia mínima de 5,400 lbs. = a 2449 Kilos O 24kN. Cómo inspeccionar: Revisar cada centímetro de la cuerda y buscar talladuras, hinchazones, deshilachado, acristalamiento, decoloración (por los productos de petróleo), corte de hilos, hilos estirados, el aumento o la disminución (contradicciones) en el diámetro. Si la cuerda tiene un ajuste de gaza, debe tener un estrechamiento y recocido apropiado. Revisar las cuerdas trenzadas por “ordeñado” y “hernias” una hernia: es cuando tienes una cuerda con diseño de doble trenzado o Kernmantle. Una palabra alemana que significa un alma (centro) (kern) trenzado sobre con un diseño de funda (mantle) (camisa). El diseño puede variar en del centro o cubierta. Revisar detalladamente las cuerdas de tres hebras.

**Protector de Cábium** – revisar el desgaste de los aros, buscar grietas y abrasión. Los aros deben tener una marca con la resistencia a la tracción. Revisar la costura de la cinta o cuerda, cortaduras, abrasión, decoloración (por productos de petróleo) y derretimiento.

## Eslabones de Conexión

**Los broches-gancho de seguridad.** Deberán ser evaluados con una fuerza mínima 5,000 lbs. = 2,267 Kilos O 23kN. Debe ser asegurado a la cuerda de trepa con un nudo de arborista aprobado. Cerciórese que es un broche con candado (de auto- serrado, con una compuerta que sierre sola). Cómo inspeccionar: abra la compuerta completamente y libérela lentamente cerciorándose que no se “pegue o detenga”. Verifique los remaches para cerciorarse que tienen el perno por encima y no están flojos. Verifique la compuerta que tenga movimiento “de lado a lado”.

**Mosquetones**– deberán ser evaluados

con una fuerza mínima 5,000 lbs. = 2,267 Kilos O 23kN. Deberán tener 2 movimientos separados antes de abrir la compuerta y sierre automáticamente y el seguro automático. Será atado a la cuerda con un nudo aprobado que cinche para prevenir “carga de lado” accidentalmente. Debe conocer apropiadamente los componentes de accesorios usados en un sistema “de soporte de vida”. Cómo inspeccionar: abra el sierre o gatillo completamente y libérela lentamente, cerciorándose que no se “pegue o detenga”. Revise el movimiento de lado a lado de la compuerta, revise que los remaches estén bien colocados y revise el exceso de uso. En el caso de los mosquetones Petzl con candado de bola, revise grietas o fracturas en el relieve antideslizante de plástico.

**El Casco de trepa**– deberá tener un sello de ANSI Z89.1. Busque grietas, deformación, orificios. Busque la fecha de fabricación. Cerciórese que la suspensión esta estable y no está rota. Escriba la fecha de la compra con un marcador imborrable en el interior (esto servirá como un recordatorio de cuando remplazarlo; en otras palabras, cada 5 años para el tipo Petzl y PMI).

**Los Lentes de Seguridad**– deberán tener un sello de ANSI Z87. Si lentes correctivos se usan, gafas de seguridad diseñadas para colocarse sobrepuestos deben usarse.

**Los arneses y sillas de trepa**– deberán tener un sello ANSI A10.14 o Z359. Cómo inspeccionar: Buscar costuras sueltas o desgastadas, cortaduras abrasiones. La hebilla con lengüeta deben trabajar correctamente. Los aros en “D” deben de estar asegurados y conectados a todos los remaches apropiadamente. Si se usan grilletas de tornillo como componente de “soporte te vida”, la rosca debe de “serrar muy bien” por medio de una tuerca de presión o un liquido para la que la rosca se estabilice. Los aros de soporte de vida tienen que tener la resistencia a la tracción marcada a ellos. Los puentes deben ser contruidos con una fibra favorable para que accesorios se deslicen en ella.

**El Serrucho y la Funda**– Revise uso excesivo en la funda. Si algunas partes de la hoja de cortar esta expuesta. Podría cortar algún “soporte de vida” componentes ligeros. (Ejemplo Cuerdas).

El acollador de posición para trabajo– lo mismo que las “cuerdas” y “eslabones de conexión”

**Otros**– todo otro equipo usado para soporte de vida deberá llenar o exceder los requerimientos de seguridad ANSI Z133.1-2016 .

Parte de este artículo fue asistido por Norm Hall de un artículo similar en ingles. ■



Photo: Guy LeBlanc



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## What's the Big IDea?

**Can you identify this native Texas tree?**



If you know this tree, look for the photo on our Facebook page and correctly identify it in the comment section under the photo, using the full scientific name and one or more common names. If you don't know it, check the page for an answer in a few days. *Hint: This Japanese native could be the star of your landscape.*

**January Winner**



January's tree— goldenball leadtree, *Leucaena retusa*—was correctly identified by Juan Guerra, Senior Horticulturalist for the City of San Antonio.