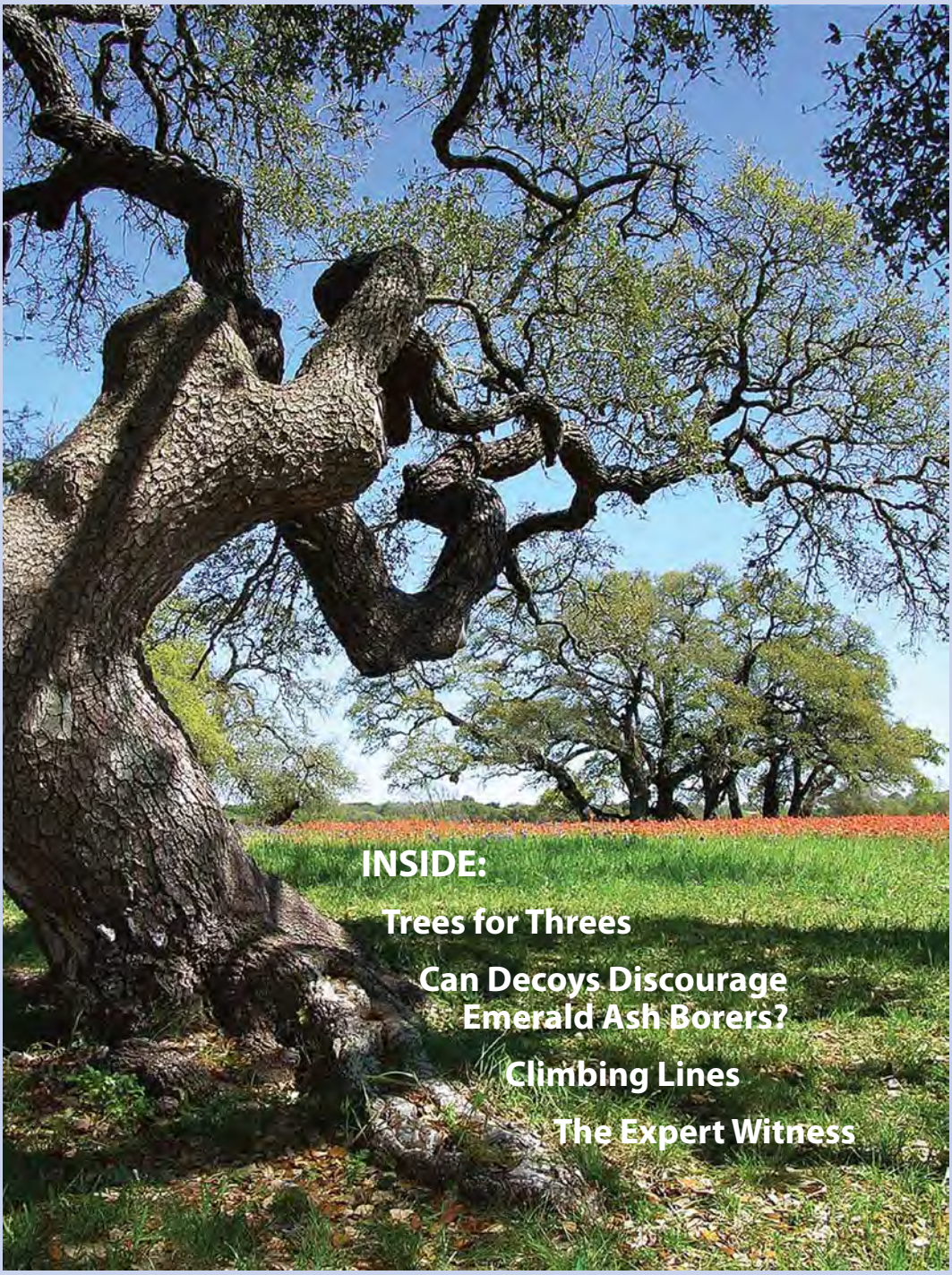
In the Shade



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NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

Vol. 37, No. 1

May, 2013

PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Susan Henson

Fellow Tree People,

What a busy time of year for our industry. We ask you to take a few minutes to read your newsletter and find out about the newest developments. Remember that you too can be published in this newsletter. We all have projects that had twists and turns and turned out okay. Why not take the time to share your experience with your fellow arborists and see if we can learn from your experiences.

There are other ways that you can assist this organization without running for a position on the board or writing an article. You could help with the climbing competition, the yearly conference, and workshops that we hold across the state. In addition, we could use some more proctors for certification testing (remember that you have to recertify). In the future all judges for the climbing competition will have to be trained and/or certified.

As you can see, this organization needs the help and support of the members. In the same respect this organization is in the business of meeting our members' needs. These needs are growing every day and we are challenged to meet those needs as we progress. We would like to know what those needs are, so look for a short survey to be circulated soon for gathering information to help us develop a plan of action. Please take time to answer the survey and help us meet your needs.

Regional workshops are in full swing and are being conducted throughout the state. These informative sessions are conducted by some of the best in the industry and contain the most current information available. Check this newsletter for upcoming workshops and events.

Our yearly conference is quickly approaching and we can always use assistance with this huge event. This year's theme is "Branching Out" because we want to embrace all aspects of arboriculture – growers, utilities, planners, engineers, landscapers and policy makers. The more people we reach the better our environment will be!

Hope to "keep growing" with your assistance.

Susan J. Henson, President

COVER PHOTO:

This picturesque tree is among a mott of live oaks at Old Baylor Park at Independence, between College Station and Brenham. This was once the campus of Baylor's Female College. Baylor University, the oldest institution of higher learning in the State of Texas and the largest Baptist university in the world, opened its doors here in 1846. Only four columns of the original college building, which contained a chapel and classrooms, remain standing. Photo by Ron Billings.

Leaders wanted

Do you want to make a difference in the tree industry? Run for office on the ISAT board of directors. You'll get to meet many of the leaders in our industry and feel good about paying it forward.

The commitment is a two-year term. There are four board meetings per year plus an annual 'retreat' where we kick off planning for the year. And, of course, the time you'll put into coordinating your volunteer projects.

A good board member is hard working, self motivated, dedicated and community oriented. We have five seats open for the election. Send in an application form if you are interested in joining the leadership of ISAT. The form can be found at **isatexas.com/Members/ISA_Directors.htm** .

–Keith Brown

It's official: chinaberry is invasive

It's official! *Melia azaderach* (chinaberry) has been added to the Texas Department of Agriculture's Noxious and Invasive Plants list. The Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council submitted a formal request in 2012 after the successful addition of *Lygodium japonicum* (Japanese climbing fern), the first species to make the list after a formal request from TIPPC.

Certification tests

Certification exams will be held August 14 in Amarillo and October 4 (12:30 to 4:30) in Waco.

Certification information and an application form can be obtained at **isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx**.

For more information contact Misti Beirne, **misti.lanehawaii@yahoo.com** or 512-965-1076.

Certified Tree Worker workshop June 8–9

An ISA Certified Tree Worker workshop will be held at San Pedro Springs Park June 8 and 9 (Saturday and Sunday) at San Pedro Springs Park, San Antonio.

Note, this is an opportunity to perform all required tests and obtain CPR certification and aerial rescue training required to take the ISA Certified Tree Worker tests. This is not a learning workshop; it is a testing opportunity.

Attendees of this workshop / test will need to fill out and submit two applications:

1. The workshop registration form: **isatexas.com**
2. ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist Application Manual: **isa-arbor.com/store/product.aspx?ProductID=212&CID=70**.

Submit the workshop registration form to P.O. Box 201531, San Antonio, TX 78220. Submit the ISA application manual directly to ISA's office per instructions in the manual.

Contact Jacob West, 210-655-4670, or Booker Arradondo, 210-657-8085, for more information.

Southwest stream conference May 28–30

The Southwest Stream Restoration Conference May 28 – 30 at the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk in San Antonio, will provide an opportunity for natural resource professionals from throughout the southwest to share knowledge, experiences and innovations in stream restoration.

See the agenda, explore preconference workshops, and find other information at **southweststream.org**.

Oak wilt workshop June 12–13

The Texas A&M Forest Service and the Texas Chapter ISA are hosting the ninth annual workshop for certified arborists on how to identify and manage oak wilt. The training, to be held June 12 and 13 at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, will be conducted by David Appel and TFS staff foresters.

Each participant who successfully completes the training will be awarded a certificate of completion, and the training will be noted on the **texasoakwilt.org** website as well as on any handouts and other material referencing qualified individuals. Registration is limited to 25.

Check **isatexas.com** or contact James Houser, **jhouser@tfs.tamu.edu**.

In the Shade

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Tree planting panorama: Volunteers planted 156 pecan, American elm, and sycamore trees in January at the Stone Tables picnic area of Dallas' White Rock Lake Park. The project was hosted by the City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department and several volunteer-based groups as part of a continuing reforestation effort at the park. This panoramic photo shows some of the 424 volunteers and 32 park forestry crew members and supervisors who came out to plant trees in the rain.

APPRAISAL CORNER by Greg David, RCA/BCMA

The expert witness

There may come a time during your career when you are asked to provide an expert opinion on a matter related to a lawsuit or trial. For arborists, a typical case might involve one or more of a wide variety of issues, such as herbicide drift damage, wildfire injury, wrongful tree removal, tree appraisal and valuation, or hazard mitigation and personal injury. If you choose to accept this type of assignment, here are a few things that are handy to keep in mind regarding your role as an expert witness.

There are two primary types of experts used during litigation: the consulting expert, and the testifying expert. When an attorney is looking for an expert arborist, the attorney usually interviews the arborist by phone or in person and then retains the arborist initially as a "consulting expert." The consulting expert examines the evidence (the scene, the tree, remaining parts of the tree, photographs, other expert's reports, depositions, etc.) and offers an opinion (either as a written report or verbally) on the various issues at question in the case, such as who should have known what, why did the tree fail, how much were those trees worth, etc.

Since consulting experts are not disclosed to the other side in a lawsuit, an attorney can determine your opinion and decide whether or not your opinion will help or hurt his or her case before disclosing you to the opposing side. If the attorney feels that your opinion will be beneficial to his or her case, you will be named as a "testifying expert," and the attorney will disclose your name to the opposing side. The opposing attorney has a right to know your opinions regarding the matters that you might testify about at trial, so the opposing attorney is given copies of any reports that you have generated, and, if desired, the opposing attorney is given an opportunity to question you before the trial (the deposition process).

It is very important to keep in mind that although a testifying expert is retained and paid by a particular side in a case, the testifying expert's duty is to the Court. This bears repeating: *the testifying expert's duty is to the Court*. Testifying experts are required to be truthful, impartial, objective, and unbiased, and it is their job to provide expert information that might help the "trier-of-fact" (either the judge or jury) reach a verdict and make decisions regarding the case.

When you think about it, this "duty to the Court" really takes a lot of pressure off the testifying expert. It is not your job to "win" the case for your side. Testifying experts cannot be advocates for one side or the other; they must be advocates for the truth. So, although it is normal and natural to hope that the side that has retained you wins a lawsuit, it is not your job or responsibility, as a testifying expert, to sway the court one way or another. Your job is to effectively communicate an objective, unbiased, supportable opinion.

Once you complete a few of these expert witness assignments, you will probably realize that there are a great many variables at trial over which you, as an arborist and expert witness, have no control whatsoever. For this reason, it is often best to avoid worrying too much about who wins the case. Your job is to provide unbiased information for the court, and if you can truly say that you would say the same thing if you had been hired by the other side, then you have probably done a good job.

Greg David is a Registered Consulting Arborist, Board-Certified Master Arborist, and a Certified Forensic Consultant. He currently serves on the ISAT Board of Directors and is the owner of TreeConsult, LLC.

Tree planting books available from ISA

ISA'S NEWEST BOOK: *The Practical Science of Planting Trees* by Gary W. Watson and E.B. Himelick

The latest must-read volume for any arborist's library. Will help readers:

- Gain insight into the biology of plant response during digging, planting, and establishment at the new site;
- Develop a basic understanding of how the transition to a new environment affects trees;
- Learn how to minimize future tree problems through proper site preparation, selection, and planting.

(©2013, softcover, large format, appendices, index, 250 pp.)

Order your copy at **isa-arbor.com/store/product.aspx?ProductID=396&CID=56** or by calling 217-355-9411.

ANSI A300/BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TREE PLANTING COMBO:

Complement your new copy of *The Practical Science of Planting Trees* with the ANSI A300/BMP Tree Planting Combo.

The ANSI A300 standards represent the industry consensus on performing tree care operations. The standards can be used to prepare tree care contract specifications. *(©2012, softcover, 9 pp.)*

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are guides written as how-to companions for the ANSI A300 standards, providing urban foresters with effective methods of standards application. *(©2005, softcover, 41 pp.)*

Order your combo at **isa-arbor.com/store/product.aspx?ProductID=155&CID=76** or by calling 217-355-9411.

Member Spotlight: Vincent Debrock

From Belgium to Texas with love for the outdoors

How did an archaeologist from Belgium come to be an arborist in San Marcos, Texas? The short answer is that he met and married an American tourist from Texas, but there's a bit more to it than that.

Vincent Debrock had an outdoorsy childhood in his native Belgium. He went camping every weekend, and his father taught him caving and rock climbing. From his grandfather, a landscape architect, he acquired a knowledge of and appreciation for plants. But he was studying archaeology and art at the university when he met his future wife, Meg, who was on a European tour. Three years after they met she moved to Belgium, and they married in 1996. When Vincent finished his degree at Université libre de Bruxelles, the couple moved to San Marcos so Meg could attend Texas State University.

Archaeological opportunities were limited in central Texas, but Vincent needed a job, so he took a "cubicle job" for a large company. It wasn't a congenial choice. Mercifully, a few months later a position opened up at Caldwell Tree Service, a long-established family-owned business in Austin. He figured that with his climbing background, plant knowledge, and fondness for the outdoors, he'd be good at tree work.

May was the start of his new job, and as he said, it was "quite a challenge." Years later he still remembers dragging brush in 100-degree weather. But he survived both the hard work and the Texas heat, and the tree business was looking like a good career path.

After Caldwell was bought by Davey Tree, Vincent continued working for Davey for 10 years. He's been a Certified Arborist since 2002. He graduated from the Davey Institute of Tree Sciences in Ohio in 2002 and completed an advanced arborist program in 2003.

Then in 2009 he started his own company–Heritage Tree Care LLC–with a partner, fellow tree care professional Jeovanny Medina.

How do they handle running a small business in an iffy economy? "Work hard, be creative, and make sure the clients are happy," he says. He and his partner offer a full line of tree services (see **txheritagetreecare.com**) including care of some cherished historical trees like the Auction Oak in Kyle. They've also branched out into activities the usual tree guy doesn't do, like water conservation and landscape design.

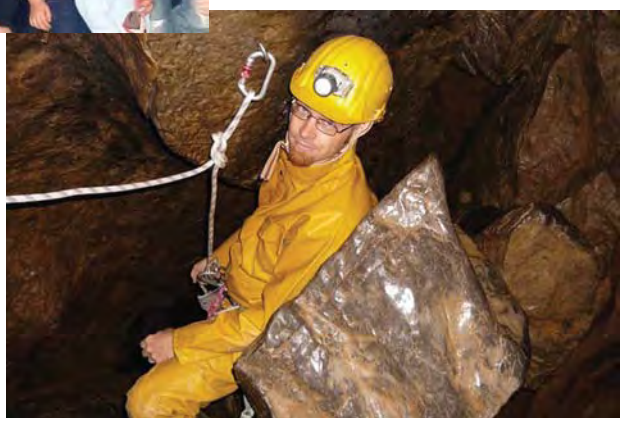
To put this more holistic approach into action, Vincent says they teamed up with "some young guys–a horticulturist, an ecologist, and a geographer," all committed to a focus on sustainable landscaping. Their efforts paid off when, in 2010, the company worked with the Corps of Engineers on the successful Aquarena restoration project in San Marcos. They are also restoring riparian lands for the City of San Marcos: removing invasive species, restoring native riparian species, planting to preserve endangered wildlife, and of course planting lots of native trees like bald cypress.

Landscaping to create rain gardens (berms, swales and plantings that retain water on site instead of letting it all run off) is a significant water conservation method, so Vincent planted a demonstration rain garden on his own property, where he currently offers presentations and tours. His office is in the back yard.

This is Vincent's first term on the ISAT board of directors. He's also a Texas Watershed Steward, part of a Texas AgriLife program to educate people on how to maintain healthy watersheds. In this capacity he gives presentations to engineers and promotes landscaping methods that are good for the watershed. "It's a new field for tree guys to get involved in," he says.

He markets his company and its ideas through outreach (booths at events, the demo rain garden, and garden club talks), and he speaks up for water conservation whenever this issue crops up on the local political scene.

Vincent spends his limited leisure time with his family. He and Meg have four kids, ages 2 1/2 to 13.



EDITOR'S NOTE by Oscar Mestas

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU! Thanks to all the *In the Shade* contributors, your response has been great. I'm getting many articles, photos, announcements and other contributions. This really helps when putting the newsletter together. Jeannette (co-editor) and I get the opportunity to see what's going on across the state and we don't have to try to fill space with what may interest me but not you. This also reflects how you, the members, see the newsletter as a valued asset for the chapter and as a venue to tell others what's happening in your region, or to share your knowledge or news about the great things you are doing.

Keep it coming! Everything is welcome, and the only drawback is that if we have more than we need, we may have to postpone or save an article for the next issue or a more timely part of the year.

If what you sent does not get in, please don't get discouraged or think that it was not worth the effort. Always feel free to contact me and say, "Hey Oscar, why didn't my article or photo get published?" As Michael Sultan will tell you, even a great writer will get many rejection letters before they get an acceptance letter, and like a good salesman, you don't take no as rejection but as an opportunity to sell to someone else. Again, THANKS! As always if you have comment or questions contact me at **omestas@tfs.tamu.edu**.

Texas Tree Climbing Championship Sponsors and Exhibitors

The Texas Tree Climbing Championship Committee and The Texas Chapter ISA would like to thank these sponsors for their generous support. Without them the TTCC would not be possible! Please keep them in mind when making your purchases of equipment and arborist supplies. You are the reason they support the TTCC.

What's the Big IDea?

Can you identify this species from the Texas Big Tree Registry ornamental list?

If you know this tree, correctly identify it on our facebook page. If you don't know it, check the page for the answer in a few days!

Hint: not for tree huggers

❖ ❖ ❖

How to enter: Log onto our facebook page and type in both the common and scientific name. We will check the page daily until the tree has been correctly identified, comfirming the correct answer.

Last month's winner

Brian Beauchamp, owner of U.S. Forestry and Wildlife Consulting, LLC, correctly identified our March tree as red maple, Acer rubrum. Brian is a Certified Arborist and lives in Dallas.

Two views of MFI 2013

"Forestry ideas that will get your head spinning for weeks"

by Mark Kroeze, Urban Forester, City of McAllen Public Works

The Municipal Forestry Institute training that my 28 fellow classmates partook in was a laboratory for urban forestry ideas that will get your head spinning for weeks afterward! You will get out of this training what you are willing to put into the program. If you challenge yourself and step outside your comfort zone you will soon realize that you are in the type of environment where you are supported by fellow tree aficionados. This network you will come to rely on during and after your snowy experience in Nebraska City, Nebraska! This program is not for everybody, but if you are into the next big ideas across the United States and abroad, this is the place to be. In addition to the fantastic learning environment, I think I laughed more over the week at MFI during after-hours than I have in the past five years!!!

"One of the best development trainings I've ever participated in"

by Mark Duff, CF BCMA, Staff Forester II, Texas A&M Forest Service

I found this to be one of the best professional development trainings I've ever participated in. While the days are long, that meant that a lot was accomplished, and the sessions were broken up by outside presenters that complement the MFI core cadre trainers. I recommend this training for anyone who gives public presentations and interviews. It is suitable for technicians to CEOs. Sure wish some of the bosses I've had in the past had attended a training like this . . . they sure needed it.

The four Texans at MFI 2013 were Mark Kroeze, City of McAllen, and Mark Duff, Texas A&M Forest Service *(front row, 2nd and 3rd from left)*; Angela Hanson, City of Austin *(2nd row, left);* and Jared Goodman, TFS *(back row, center).*

The story of Trees for Threes

A successful team: Dallas Mavericks, arborists and volunteers

by Bill Seaman, Certified Arborist, Arborilogical Services, Inc.

Late in the summer of 2009, the Dallas Mavericks organization chose to participate in the recently announced NBA Green Week. The Mavs contacted Steve Houser, president of Arborilogical Services, Inc., requesting his assistance.

They decided to initiate a program designed to plant a small number of 3- to 4-inch caliper trees, with each tree provided with irrigation that could be adjusted to meet its ongoing needs. To ensure that the newly planted trees would have the best chances to survive, a maintenance program was established that included regular inspections by a certified arborist. Additionally, the newly planted trees would be fertilized and any insect pest issues would be addressed during the critical three-year establishment period.

As a full partner in the program, Arborilogical Services committed to providing the necessary tree care services and the time to plan the events, train the volunteers, and lead the teams on planting days, pro bono. Steve and his associates are proud that they are leaving a legacy of commemorative Mavs tree groves for future generations to enjoy. "It is a gift that is worthy of our time, effort, and financial contributions," he said.

For the program's first year, Steve suggested the concept for a "Trees for Wins" event that would plant one tree for each Dallas Mavericks' win. Dallas' historic Reverchon Park was chosen as the site for the first year's planting as part of a continuing commitment of support from Arborilogical Services and the park's neighbor, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

The park, once overrun with illicit activity, has had its reputation restored, and is again an urban parkland destination for the neighborhood and the children at the hospital. Both organizations worked to establish the nonprofit group, Friends of Reverchon Park, to provide permanent care for the park. After months of planning, more than 50 large trees were planted in the park in the spring of 2010.

With the success of the first year, there was a shared desire to expand. Steve suggested a "Threes for Trees" program that would plant a tree for each three-pointer scored by the Mavs during the season. The number of three pointers scored could be posted on the Mavericks' website to tout of the number of trees to plant. After some discussion, the title was revised to "Trees for Threes" to put more focus on the trees and less on the threes.

Many more volunteers and another partner were needed to ensure a permanent and sustainable program. Based on an existing relationship, the Mavs were able to garner support from PricewaterhouseCoopers. The expanded partnership worked well, successfully planting 150 trees at White Rock Lake's Winfrey Point Park and another 150 trees in Oak Cliff's historic Lake Cliff Park in March 2011

The Trees for Threes coalition turned its attention toward Dallas schools with a need for additional trees. Past efforts to plant trees on school campuses had rarely been successful because of the lack of water or irrigation during the summer months. After approaching school district officials, presenting the program, and gaining their support, 300 trees were planted at three Dallas schools in the spring of 2012.

During 2013 the group will plant another 300 trees at three more Dallas school locations. Soon the partnership will be very close to reaching the milestone of 1,000 trees properly planted and maintained.

Trees for Threes is the first successful and permanent public tree planting/maintenance program in the history of the City of Dallas. The program is also starting to spread to other NBA teams and the group is rightfully thrilled.

Volunteers from a PricewaterhouseCoopers planting team take a moment for a photo op while helping students at Dallas Skyline High School plant trees as part of Dallas Mavericks *Trees for Threes* tree planting/maintenance program. Photo by Bill Seaman.

4th annual bilingual tree care worker training

Eduardo Medina explains climbing methods and safety equipment.

The 4th Annual Bilingual Tree Care Worker Training in San Antonio on April 11 was a great success. Indoor morning sessions were conducted concurrently in English and Spanish. The English session included talks by Robert Edmonson (TFS) on oak wilt and tree pruning, Micah Pace (TFS) on professionalism in arboriculture, and Paul Johnson (TFS) on tree biology.

Indoor morning sessions in Spanish included presentations by Eduardo Medina (Davey, Chicago) and George Gomez (McCoy) on professionalism for tree care workers, Dr. Raul Cabrera (AgriLife Extension) on tree biology, and Mark Duff (TFS) on oak wilt and tree pruning. A hot lunch was provided before everyone went to the three rotating outdoor demonstrations.

These included climbing safety/large tree takedown/clearance pruning by Eduardo Medina, chainsaw safety by Tim Jackson (Davey), ARC demonstration by James Koenig (CPS Energy), and small tree pruning by Mark Bird (City Arborist, City of San Antonio [COSA]) with Jacob West (Bartlett).

Mark Duff and Iris Magaly Zayas (USDA Forest Service, Atlanta) were on hand to facilitate any translations.

A raffle was organized where chainsaws, climbing ropes, leaf blowers, hand pruners and other items were claimed. Certificates of attendance were handed out to the attendees. These serve to fulfill annual CEU requirements to maintain COSA tree maintenance licenses. There were 190 paid attendees, and about 20 additional volunteers from McCoy Tree Care, Asplundh and San Antonio Arborist Association and speakers.

Special thanks to Armando Cortez (Inspector, COSA), Michael Nentwich (Forester, COSA Parks), Booker Arradondo (San Antonio Arborist Association), Lissa Martinez (Alamo Area Master Naturalist) for the photography, and Davey Tree for sending Eduardo Medina from Chicago – since the event would not have taken place without him. Also, thanks to Bartlett, Asplundh and McCoy for providing raffle items.

–Mark Duff

Photos by Lissa Martinez

Chain saw safety demo at the Bilingual Tree Worker Training.

Tree removal demonstration. Paul Johnson in background, Eduardo Medina and students in far background at tree climbing demonstration.

CLIMBING LINES by Guy LeBlanc, Certified Arborist

Smooth move

The development of ascent systems has grown exponentially in recent years, especially those designed for SRT. I was recently made aware of yet another variation on the rope walker system which usually involves a handled ascender, a chest ascender (like the Petzl Croll) and a foot ascender (like the Petzl Pantin). It came to me from **Jackson McIntosh**, one of last year's Texas Tree Climbing Championship finalists.

The system is identical to the common rope walker system, except that the hand ascender is replaced by a Petzl Basic. The Basic is very similar in design to the Croll in that it is very compact and has no handle grip. As with the common set-up, a life-support-rated tether runs from this upper ascender to a carabiner on the saddle bridge. The Croll is also connected to this carabiner, providing the two forms of attachment required in an ascender-based ascent *(see photo)*. In Jackson's version, the tether is adjustable by way of a small, non-rated mini-ascender. A foot loop is connected to the bottom of the Basic, and a short (roughly 12 inches long) accessory cord loop is attached on the top.

It is this short loop that is used to advance the entire system, simply by being hooked over one thumb. Both hands stay on the rope above the Basic, and this allows for a much more upright experience than when using a regular handled ascender. It even allows for a hand-over-hand style of advancing if the loop is long enough.

My experience with this system has been that it is far more natural to adapt to than the common rope walker set-up. The speed and ease of ascent is markedly better, and I have had none of the strain that can sometimes be associated with trying to stay upright on other rope walker set-ups. Of course, it is not as upright or hands-free as a system that employs a PMI chest roller, as world champion **Mark Chisholm** has demonstrated in his climbing workshops here, but it is much less expensive and gear-intensive.

These systems are making for excellent speed during ascent, with only a small fraction of the effort involved in footlocking. Experienced climbers are now doing 50-foot ascents with rope walker systems in under 20 seconds. Obviously both techniques have their advantages and disadvantages, and the rope walking *SRT ascent requires more equipment and more experience to use safely*, but once you are familiar with it, there is no question that it is much easier on the body.

Like other ascender-based systems, this system is for ascent only. Jackson transfers to a traditional doubled rope system attached to the ascent line for work positioning and descent.

No word on whether this variation is "approved" yet by the expert advisors at International, so as with any other climbing system, ***go low and slow until you know***.

The author is the owner and operator of Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin, TX. He has over 30 years experience and is available for worker safety and tree care workshops. He may be reached at 512-301-8700.

Dr. Luley's decay assessment workshop

Participants in the Austin workshop pose at the Wildflower Center.

This year's Masters Series Workshop was a success again. Held March 20 and 21, both locations– Houston and Austin–filled quickly and were both sold out with 50 attendees each.

Dr. Luley is based in Naples, New York, where he is vice president of Urban Forestry LLC. His expertise is very wide, as you can tell by the numerous publications listed on his website **www.urbanforestryllc.com**. He is also the publisher of the visual ID series and author of *Wood Decay Fungi*.

Dr. Luley explains the basics for sounding a tree at the Houston workshop. Some participants made long trips for this learning opportunity. Luis Galvan (center, blue shirt) came all the way from Odessa.

The goal of the workshop was to educate about decay and tree management. We went over the types of decay and their importance in tree management. We learned basic fungi ID and methods of decay assessment, and we reviewed interpretation, including the T/r formula, currently one of the most used for risk assessment.

Outdoors, we put tools in the hands of the participants: sounding hammer (the traditional arborist mallet), portable drill, and Resistograph. Dr. Luley showed how the sounding hammer and simple portable drill can easily be used to assess decay and is as accurate as the Resistograph. The point was made that carrying a sounding hammer should be an essential part of being an arborist. IML, manufacturer of the Resistograph tools, sponsored the meals and presented their various models and even had some refurbished models for sale on site.

Assessing decay is an integral part of our job. The high demand for this workshop and the TRAQ (tree risk assessment qualification) being rolled out this year makes it clear that ISAT will pursue more training of various formats in this field.

–Vincent Debrock

Photos on next page:

Top: Getting down and dirty! Vincent Debrock exposing the root collar.

Middle: Sounding the tree. . . . listening for changes in tone.

Bottom: Jeff Hanawalt with Bio Landscape of Houston trying out the Resistograph. Brad Hendricks with Houston Parks Department is observing the technique.

Dr. Luley's decay assessment workshop

continued

◀

Love trees? Then don't miss the tree event of the year!

THE 2013 TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP AND TREE FAIR

May 16th–18th
Bob Woodruff Park
Plano

educational • exciting competition & prizes • fun for the whole family

Thursday May 16th

Aerial Rescue Workshop with ITCC Champ Mark Chisholm.

Friday May 17th

Exciting TTCC climbing events - Work Climb, Aerial Rescue, Throw Line, Secured Foot Lock, and Belayed Speed Climb.

Saturday May 18th

Master's Challenge and Tree Fair

Winner of **Master's Challenge** will represent Texas at the international championship in Toronto this summer.

Tree Fair events: chainsaw racing, tree height and diameter estimating, arborist hitches, bends and knots.

. . . and more!

Our great sponsors will be showing the latest and greatest in gear, tools, and equipment.

For details or to register as a competitor see isatexas.com/Members/TTCC/2013_TTCC.htm or contact Kevin Bassett, 972-877-0358. Registration deadline is May 15.

PEST POST

Left, an emerald ash borer. Right, a manufactured decoy of an emerald ash borer.

Images: Left, Michael J. Domingue; right, Drew P. Pulsifer, Penn State.

Decoys could blunt spread of ash-killing beetles

After 25 years, researchers may have found a way to keep the emerald ash borer in check.

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. – As the emerald ash borer ravages North American ash trees, threatening the trees' very survival, a team of entomologists and engineers may have found a way to prevent the spread of the pests.

Emerald ash borers (EABs), a type of beetle native to Asia, first appeared in the U.S. about 20 years ago. They are now moving east from Michigan, killing ash trees on the Eastern Seaboard as far south as North Carolina.

"Within 25 years, practically no ash trees may remain on either side of the St. Lawrence Seaway," said Akhlesh Lakhtakia, Charles Godfrey Binder Professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics at Penn State.

As their name implies, emerald ash borers are iridescent green. The beetles don't carry disease, but their larvae feed on the ash trees' sap, effectively killing the trees by depriving trees of their nourishment.

Penn State's Dr. Tom Baker, entomology, places an emerald ash borer decoy on an ash tree in Lewistown, Pa.

Image: Baker Lab, Penn State.

Thomas C. Baker, Distinguished Professor of Entomology at Penn State, knew that the male EAB locates a mate by flying over an ash tree, finding a female by identifying her green wings, which are folded over her back, and then dropping straight down onto her.

Baker and a post-doctoral fellow in his lab, Michael J. Domingue, were using dead female EABs for bait to trap the male beetles. Dead EAB decoys are not ideal for trapping, said Baker, because they are fragile and can sometimes disappear from the trap.

Baker then learned that Lakhtakia was able to replicate certain biological materials, such as fly eyes and butterfly wings. Baker posed the question: could Lakhtakia's technique visually replicate the unique female borer to create a better lure?

The researchers had planned a pilot test in central Pennsylvania, but were unable to carry it out due to unfavorable regional weather conditions. They also ran a pilot test in Hungary with a related beetle pest that bores into oak trees. The pilot in Hungary used two controls–a dead EAB and a decoy made of the polymers, but not molded into the shape of a beetle–and three types of stamped decoys: one lightly stamped, another with medium force and the final stamped heavily.

"Akhlesh's technique allows us to present males with different visual stimuli," said Baker, also a faculty member in the University's Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences. "We can manipulate more than that, but right now we are experimentally manipulating the visual decoy."

The two researchers, working with a graduate student in Lakhtakia's lab, Drew P. Pulsifer, created a mold of the top of the female beetle's body. The decoy beetle is made by a process of layering polymers with different refractive indexes to create the desired iridescence, and then stamping the resulting material into the mold. The researchers were able to create a color similar to the emerald ash borer's green wings by layering different types of polymer. Eventually they were able to find the right combination of polymers and number of layers in order to refract light and create a color similar to the beetle's own iridescent green. The

researchers' findings are scheduled to be published in the April issue of the *Journal of Bionic Engineering*.

"The preliminary indication is that these stamped decoys were 40 percent better than recently dead females in luring and then trapping the males," said Lakhtakia.

The stamped decoys are relatively easy to mass produce, making them both easier to create and maintain and more successful at trapping males than dead female borers.

The purpose of the decoys is to trap the males so that populations of emerald ash borers can be detected in new locations quickly, paving the way for efficient use of other control methods, according to the researchers.

"This is a small dataset, but very encouraging," said Baker, who plans to test the decoys in the U.S. this summer.

Other members of the research team were Beverly G. Post, engineering science and mechanics undergraduate, Penn State; Mahesh S. Narkhede, plastics engineering graduate student and member of the Center for Advanced Materials, and Jayant Kumar, professor of physics and applied physics and director of the Center for Advanced Materials, both at University of Massachusetts Lowell; and Raúl J. Martín-Palma, professor of applied physics, Universidad Autónomia de Madrid, Spain.

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http://news.psu.edu/story/263533/2013/02/12/research/decoys-could-blunt-spread-ash-killing-beetles

An ash tree killed by emerald ash borers.
Image: J.P. Lelito, USDA-APHIS

Bajo la Sombra

Reto que conlleva la poda de árboles maduros

por Salvador Alemany MFS - Dasónomo Urbano Forestal de La Región del Valle del Río Grande Texas, Texas A & M Forest Service

Se define la poda como el arte y ciencia del proceso que conlleva remover partes de un árbol con un propósito específico, estas partes esenciales son sus ramas, raíces, brotes, flores y frutas. Lo concerniente a la ciencia estriba en conocer la respuesta biológica del árbol al proceso. Mientras que el arte envuelve la capacidad del profesional en comprender la forma y aspecto natural del árbol. Sin embargo, la poda de individuos que han alcanzado su madurez requiere de cierta sutilidad y precaución un tanto distinta a la de los árboles jóvenes.

Entonces qué factores significativamente pueden marcar diferencias significativas… Primero la biomasa del árbol la cual es producto de un proceso dinámico. El árbol utiliza su energía para su crecimiento, reproducción y mantenimiento de sus células, ósea su estructura ó biomasa. También el sistema radical es parte integral de esa biomasa. Los arboles maduros contario a los arboles jóvenes incorporan mayor cantidad de su energía en el mantenimiento de sus células y el sobrante en crecimiento. Por ende en los individuos maduros podemos decir que su energía es menos dinámica, y el balance entre la energía para crecer y la energía de mantenimiento es delicado. Así que estos individuos maduros con ramas de gran biomasa cuentan con energía restringida para llevar a cabo el proceso de compartimentación en comparación con árboles en plenitud de crecimiento.

La estructura es otro factor, mientras el árbol esta en desarrollo el tiempo va creando diferencias morfológicas. El árbol paulatinamente ha desarrollado un eje central al cual se ha ido añadiendo secuencialmente ramas con una inserción profunda del tronco central. Sin embargo estas uniones poseen una elevada diferenciación en la composición de sus tejidos, lo que puede resultar en una mayor capacidad para compartimentación y acumulación de reservas energéticas.

Mientras el árbol va madurando la aparición de rebrotes deja ser secuencial, entonces es mayormente influenciada según la exposición a la luz, factores ambientales y de competencia. Estas ramas que no son estructurales, requieren de menor energía en su madera, entonces en esa zona la capacidad para transportar savia y su ligereza estructural son los factores esenciales, resultando en la formación de horquillas que no compartimentan en su base.

Por ende, al infligir daño en las ramas de árboles maduros, estas no serán compartimentadas hasta la primera sección o rama verdadera, aumentando los riesgos de infección en la región de corte y la posibilidad de pudriciones subsiguientemente.

Independiente a la madurez del individuo las razones para la poda son esencialmente las mismas, seguridad, salud y estética. Sin embargo el riesgo de la misma en arboles maduros puede tener consecuencias adversas por lo que hemos explicado. Es importante proponerse hacer cortes apropiados, los arboles se recuperan mejor de pequeñas heridas que obviamente grandes heridas. Debemos siempre que podamos extraer ramas pequeñas el riesgo será menor.

Finalmente debemos seguir las ▶

Encino campeón de la ciudad de Edinburg Texas, árbol plantado en el 1926. La mayor parte de su energía está destinada al mantenimiento de su enorme biomasa sobre y bajo el suelo (sistema radical).

pautas provistas por el servicio forestal de los Estados Unidos:

1. Para ramas menores de 2 pulgadas de diámetro, realice el corte.
2. Para ramas de 2-4 pulgadas de diámetro, piense dos veces antes de cortar.
3. Para ramas mayores de 4 pulgadas de diámetro, corte si tiene una buena razón.
4. Nunca elimine más del 25 por ciento de la totalidad del follaje.

Ed Kuprel y Paul Johnson, Dasónomos Urbanos de la ciudad de Edinburg y Texas A & M respectivamente, midiendo el encino campeón de la ciudad de Edinburg Texas. En el centro podemos observar una rama cortada y se observa la compartimentación de esta. Observemos la baja colocación de la mayor parte de sus ramos muy diferente a muchos de los encinos plantados hoy día.

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ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package

The Texas Chapter is pleased to announce the 2013 ArborMaster climbing kit prize package for the Texas Tree Climbing Champion. This kit is intended to help equip the Texas Champion at the International Tree Climbing Championship.

The prize package includes:

- Petzl Vertex helmet with professional hearing protection, eye protection and climbing gloves provided by Husqvarna
- 150' climbing line with eye splice from Samson
- Silky Sugoi 360mm saw
- Buckingham $50 gift certificate
- Oregon PowerSharp precision saw chain sharpening system
- ArborMaster rope friction saver by Buckingham
- 50% savings for an ArborMaster 2-day or 3-day hands-on training module