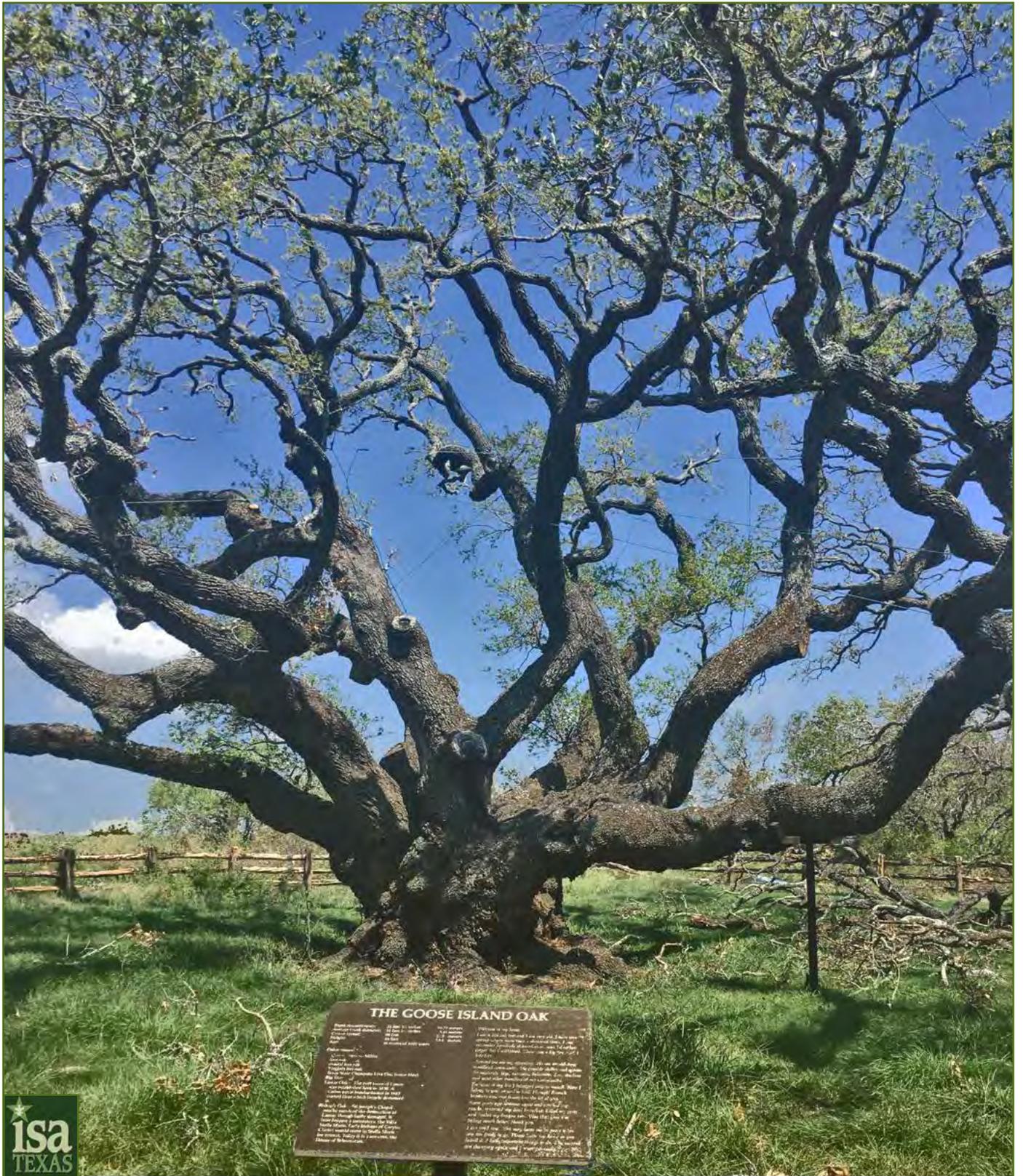


In the Shade



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
Vol. 41, No. 4 November, 2017



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President's Letter

Micah Pace



In the Shade

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ON THE COVER

Miraculously, the Big Tree at
Goose Island State Park sustained
little to no damage from
Hurricane Harvey. It was one of
the few trees that still had leaves
attached. This photo was taken
two weeks after the storm.

*In the woods we return
to reason and faith.*

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

*One is wise to cultivate
the tree that bears fruit
in our soul.*

– Henry David Thoreau

Greetings to the entire ISA Texas membership! First, allow me to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to continue to serve each of you. I hope to bring the same professionalism and grace to the ISA Texas presidency that my predecessor, Lara Schuman, demonstrated. A big thank you to Lara for her time and passion for our group and the industry! Job well done, indeed.

It's an exciting time to be part of ISA Texas. The organization continues to grow in both size and reach. In fact, ISAT's *TreEmail* subscription surpassed 4,000 individuals in mid-2017. Under Lara's leadership this year, ISA Texas was effective in the planning, organizing, running, and/or support of nineteen different professional development opportunities for our members across the state. Some of these events also included new types of workshops, like the Women's Tree Climbing Workshop scheduled for November 17–19.

As the chair for the 2017 Texas Tree Conference, I am very grateful for the many hours the entire conference planning committee dedicated to making this year's big event a success. It absolutely could not happen without the strong team of board members and volunteers that stepped up to participate. A special thank you to the hardest working executive director, John Giedraitis, whose consistent organization and focused support provided all the glue that kept things together from beginning to end.

With 975 conference participants and 175 new memberships added during the conference, our chapter is strong and growing. Jim Carse, exhibitor and sponsor chair for the conference, did another outstanding job and added the professional touch of contracting with a trade show organizer, Lone Star Decorating, to enhance the experience for all of our vendors and sponsors. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of growing our Trade Show and the support that it lends to the overall success of the conference.

I want to welcome our newly elected directors to the board: Matt Simmons, Priscilla Files, Steve Driskill, and Curtis Hopper. Congratulations also to Gene Gehring, Zaina Gates, and Emily King for their selection as the new treasurer, vice president, and president-elect, respectively. Your entire board will hit the ground running with several planned events, such TRAQ in Fort Worth (Oct. 23), a women's climbing workshop in Spicewood (Nov. 17–19), the annual board retreat in Grand Prairie (December), and a strategic planning meeting (January). We've got lots of work to do on your behalf. I don't intend to take it easy on them so don't worry.

I also wanted to follow up on a topic that was brought up during our business meeting at this year's conference. The need to grow the supply of skilled climbers and tree workers in Texas is an important issue currently being addressed on two fronts. First, ISA Texas, through its commercial members, is partnering with TCIA on their Professional Tree Care Workforce Initiative. We hope to collectively enhance the number of skilled tree care workers throughout the state. However, this will take time and a dedicated commitment by many, so contact me as to how you can get involved. Secondly, we will also be working this year to grow and enhance the ISA Certified Tree Worker program. Please stay tuned for more information on how you can assist or participate.

I'll leave you with one last thought. ISA Texas is a member-built and member-run organization. It takes the collective effort of those willing to serve to fulfill our mission. I would urge anyone interested in serving to contact me. You may serve in a variety of ways which do not require a three-year director's role commitment. If any of you would like the board to address specific issues/themes during our upcoming board retreat or strategic planning meeting, please email me at micahp@preservationtree.com and I will present them during the 2017 retreat in December.

ROUNDUP:

37th Annual Texas Tree Conference

by Micah Pace, President, ISA Texas/2017 Conference Chair



September 27 through 29 marked the 37th annual Texas Tree Conference (TTC), Academy, Tree School, and Trade Show in Waco. With nearly 1,000 participants and attendees, the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA Texas) presented its capstone educational event to its members, providing a diverse list of speakers from around the state and country to share the latest in professional tree care, resource assessments, and management planning.

This year's Tree Academy on Wednesday, September 27, offered two great educational sessions. First, attendees had the opportunity to test their diagnostic and identification skills, as well as pick up some new ones, during the always popular "What's Up Doc?" Pest and Disease Workshop. The Urban Forestry Academy session, led by Drs. Gordon, Luloff, and Elmendorf, challenged its participants to think more comprehensively about their approach to urban forest management, emphasizing the "Learning Pyramid" concept and how to maximize the effectiveness of

April Rose tests her diagnostic and ID skills at the "What's Up Doc?" workshop.



Guy LeBlanc teaching rigging at the ever-popular Tree School (English track).

formal urban and community forestry programs.

With a successful conclusion to the Academy sessions out of the way, we were able to get down to the real serious business of our annual Wednesday night dinner and social in Indian Spring Park, which included a catered fish fry and the Past-Presidents' Keg Challenge! Food was great. And kegs were great . . . while they lasted. Thank you to Live Oak (Del Valle) and Legal Draft (Arlington) Breweries. Regrettably, the pre-rain wind made the traditional tortilla toss totally tenuous and essentially impossible this year . . . at least that's the excuse I plan on sticking with.

The 2017 TTC educational sessions officially began on Thursday with three keynote addresses. Dr. John Ball spoke to us about the devastating impact of the emerald ash borer and its relation to tree worker safety. Jim Crusier with AEP

continued the safety theme in the context of corporate, regulatory, and customer expectations. Finally, Guy Meilleur shared his nine-week experience in global tree care and how different cultural views around the world can shape our perspectives of general tree care priorities, mature tree management, and risk tolerance. These interesting and relevant discussions provided an important reminder that at the heart of what we do are people, not trees.

Conference participants also enjoyed a well-planned Trade Show with numerous vendors providing a wealth of information on tools and resources that make managing important tree resources more effective, efficient, and safer. This year we enjoyed the support and presence of 97 sponsors and exhibitors! Our 2017 Bookstore was once again professionally managed by John Warner (TFS) and Lisa Butler (ISA). A big thank you to them both, ▶

as their dedicated support continues to provide useful resources that promote education and build professionalism for our members.

This year's award luncheon honored the following individuals/groups in three distinct categories: *Arboricultural Project of Year* – Yandell Street Improvement Project from the City of El Paso and St. Clements Parish School; *Volunteer of the Year* – Gene Gehring; *Gold Leaf Award for Landscape Improvement* – Whisper Creek at Hollyhock Road project from Bexar County; and *Outstanding Arbor Day* award – City of Tyler. Congratulations to everyone for a great year of dedication and commitment to one of the most important assets in our communities . . . our trees! Unfortunately, the nominating committee did not receive one official nomination from the general membership for the *Arborist of the Year* award and therefore, no award was presented at this year's event. I sincerely apologize for the lack of oversight on this. As chair of the conference, I should have ensured a proper nomination was provided prior to the conference. In the future, please help us avoid this from ever occurring again by taking the time to recognize one of your fellow arborists for their achievements.

Friday concluded the conference with our business meeting and final breakout sessions. Our annual Tree School (English track) was once again led by Guy LeBlanc and Brad Hamel while the Spanish track was presented by Mark Duff, Bill Green, Adolfo Sanchez, and Ana Ramirez. Thank you to all of them for continuing to help support these important sessions that engage young and/or new tree care professionals. Cultivating wise and responsible arborists is at the heart of ISATexas' mission. Job well done to all!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, participated, and attended, including our SAF students and poster participants! We look forward to seeing you all again at the 38th Annual Texas Trees Conference in Waco in September, 2018! ■



1. Attendees had the chance to meet and talk with speakers such as John Ball on the Trade Show floor.
2. The silent auction tables were loaded with lots of great goodies.
3. The Trade Show provided opportunities for attendees to check out and buy the latest equipment.
4. Nathan Morrison presented on Starting and Growing a Successful Business in the commercial track.



More from TTC



1. The Urban Forestry Academy brought together people from nonprofits, counties, municipalities and state government.
2. The Wednesday night social was threatened by rain, but the tents gave it a festive atmosphere.
3. The poster session was a big draw during breaks.
4. Breakfast was served on the Trade Show floor for the two days of the conference, providing a chance for early morning discussions.



ISA Bookstore sees another successful conference

The ISA Bookstore at the Texas Tree Conference brought in nearly \$6,000 in sales, with the biggest sellers being books on insects and diseases followed by ISA certification manuals in English/Spanish, the BMP guides, and ISA baseball caps. Other popular items were t-shirts from past ISA Texas climbing competitions and conferences. All were sold out by the end of the three days.

Stephen F Austin State University

urban forestry and arboriculture students contributed over 20 hours of volunteer service to the booth helping out ISA's Lisa Butler and ISA Texas chapter member and bookstore lead, John Warner.

Each year, Lisa and John look forward to setting up the ISA Bookstore. They arrive early and set up a store like no other chapter does, arranging it to accommodate visitors and facilitate sales. ■



Upcoming Events

November 15-16

Partners in Community Forestry Conference

Engaging programming for an array of professionals, including arborists, utility and municipal employees, nonprofit volunteers and university students and faculty. www.arborday.org

November 17

Texas Women's Climbing Workshop

A new tree climbing workshop for women, taught by women. This will be ISA Texas' first women's tree climbing workshop. Designed for women who have never climbed trees before with ropes. <http://bit.ly/TXWTCW2017>

November 30

Drought Tolerance in Trees – Improving Tree Selection for Challenging Urban Sites

Free one-hour webinar with Andrew Hiron, PhD, Myerscough College, U.K. Noon MST. CEUs. www.treefund.org/webinars

December 4-5

ArborMaster L1 Precision Tree Felling, Chainsaw Safety & Handling

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December 6-8

ArborMaster L1 Tree Climbing Methods, Work Positioning & Best Practices

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December 6

Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification – San Marcos

You can help us evaluate and improve our new Wildfire Qualification! The threat wildfire poses to residents of Texas increases everyday as more people move into once natural areas. We know it's not a question of if a fire will start, but when. <https://tinyurl.com/wraq2017>

December 8

Basic Tree Climbing Course – San Antonio

Instruction on the rope and harness climbing technique used by ISA Certified Arborists. Two classroom hours reviewing the basics required for ISA certification in climbing and rigging. After class all participants who have purchased climbing gear or have climbing gear that passes inspection will get hands-on time practicing climbing techniques in a tree. <http://bit.ly/SAAATreeClimbing>

January 18, 2018

Arboriculture 101 – 2018 Save-the-Date!

Whether you are preparing for ISA's Certified Arborist exam, TCIA's Tree Care Specialist credential, need CEUs, or are interested in improving your knowledge of trees, plan to attend this popular class taught by Dr. Todd Watson. streamsidegreen.com ■



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Ask the Expert #1:

The Case of Dying Lacebark Elms in West Ft. Worth

Note to Reader: An exercise similar to this feature was premiered at the “What’s Up Doc?” Tree Academy during the 2017 ISA Texas Chapter Tree Conference in Waco on Sept. 17. In that meeting, the following example was submitted by Gene Gehring, who also served as the moderator to a panel consisting of four experts: Sheila McBride, David Appel, Todd Watson and Bill Ree. The task of the panel was to discuss and present an opinion on what was affecting the trees. If you like this article and would like to contribute to a future installment, please submit images and a description of your disease scenario to Dave Appel at appel@tamu.edu.

Description of the problem

This is an example of how a specific pattern of diseased trees can go a long way toward revealing the cause of mortality. Lacebark (a.k.a. Chinese) elms (*Ulmus parvifolia*) were growing street side in Tarrant County. (Fig. 1). In the foreground of Fig. 1 is an apparently healthy tree, but all others receding into the distance are dead or dying. The trees were succumbing progressively one after another along the street. Given the pattern, the healthy tree in the foreground tree will be the next to go.

Additional observations included rapid symptom development and collapse of the trees – often within 2-3 days. Initially foliage became chlorotic (yellow), wilted, and then turned brown (Fig. 2). Another revealing symptom was the fallen tree with extensive root rot. The trees had good root flares and there was no indication of other cultural problems such as overwatering or girdling roots.

The Diagnosis

Given all of these symptoms, the panel considered several alternatives. However, the consensus of the panel quickly focused on cotton root rot (CRR) as the cause. The causal fungus, *Phymatotrichopsis omnivora*, is native to Tarrant County, surviving in widely scattered areas, sometimes for decades before someone “finds” it by planting a susceptible plant near it. Lacebark elms are very susceptible to cotton root rot. This pathogen is known to be prevalent on former, abandoned cotton land. The soil contains tiny survival structures called sclerotia that last for decades before re-infecting a new host. *P. omnivora* will grow down a row of lacebark elms from one root system to the next, as depicted in Fig. 1. Also, one of the elms was completely rotted. These symptoms also occur on other CRR hosts, such as cotton or grapevines, where plants can be pulled from the soil easily with one hand.

P. omnivora is considered to be one of the deadliest of all plant pathogens, known to attack more than 2,000 species of plants. The fungus prefers soils with a pH range of 7.0 – 8.5, and thrives in high summertime temperatures. There are currently no consistent control measures available for cotton root rot in landscape plants. Attempts to manage the disease by modifying soil properties have been met with variable results. Fungicides may

eventually prove to be effective, but there are no immediate plans for obtaining a label for promising candidates. Details on control and a list of resistant trees can be found at

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/cottonrootrot/cotton.html> . ■

–Prepared by D.N. Appel, Professor and Extension Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, TAMU



Fig. 1. Chinese elms planted along a street in Ft. Worth (August, 2017). The only healthy tree along the street is in the foreground.

Fig. 2. Defoliated, dead tree adjacent to a defoliating tree infected with *P. omnivora*. Note the chlorotic foliage still attached to the diseased tree on the right.



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Strike Team assesses risks to property and people

Harvey slams trees on Texas coast

Effects on Trees

Category 4 Hurricane Harvey made landfall near Rockport on August 26 with sustained winds of 130 mph. The slow-moving storm hovered over Victoria before heading back to sea and inching up the coast. While copious amounts of rain induced unprecedented flooding, primary tree disturbance in the Rockport to Victoria path was due to high winds and consisted of defoliation, broken branches, split trunks and full tree blow over. Flood damage to trees in Houston and Southeast Texas is expected but won't be fully discernible until spring leaf-out.

Strike Team Response

In addition to the emergency management response of many TFS staff, on September 6 a 10-member Urban Forest Strike Team deployed to Rockport to perform risk assessments on storm-damaged trees that posed a risk to people and property on all city managed lands.

Through a State of Texas Assistance Request from the State Operations Center, the team again deployed the week of September 17 to Victoria and Refugio. Assessments in Victoria

were limited to high-use public property prioritized by City of Victoria personnel.

Specific Community Findings

Rockport

1,295 storm-damaged trees identified that pose an immediate risk to people or property on city lands.

Victoria

1,425 storm-damaged trees identified that pose an immediate risk to people or property on prioritized high-use city lands.

Refugio

270 storm-damaged trees identified that pose an immediate risk to people or property on city lands.

Timely response to three municipalities within three weeks following hurricane landfall identified a **total of 2,990 storm-damaged trees** with an imminent or probable likelihood of failure and risk of harm to people or property on city managed lands. This assistance allowed city contractors to quickly and efficiently mitigate this threat. ▶

Mark Kroeze and Mike Sills measure and record one of almost 3,000 trees that were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Harvey.



Roads were lined with mounds of debris.



The Zachary Taylor Oak in Rockport suffered from Hurricane Harvey.



Matt Weaver and Brad Hamel with TFS Urban Forest Strike Team measure and record a sugarberry that failed due to Harvey.

Who are the UFST?

Urban Forest Strike Team (UFST) is a team of trained personnel deployed to perform rapid tree risk assessments to identify storm-damaged trees that pose a risk to people and property on publicly managed land, and to document trees that meet FEMA debris management criteria (FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide) for Public Assistance reimbursement.

UFST follows the Incident Command System under supervision of Tree Risk Assessment Qualified Certified Arborists. It was developed by the U.S. Forest Service and is supported by the Southern Group of State Foresters.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) foresters also assisted private landowners with tips to help evaluate if their own trees were an immediate safety risk or could potentially be saved, and served as a point of connection to Certified Arborists and volunteers. ■

AFTER THE STORM:

Can this tree be saved?

After a major storm event, customers will call you to find out if their tree can be saved. Texas A&M Forest Service has put together a great pdf that you can distribute to your customers. It can be found at bit.ly/AfterStormpdf.

Here is an excerpt:

Trees have an uncanny ability to recover from storm damage. Oftentimes, storms leave trees looking bare and deflated, but these looks can be deceiving. Ask yourself these questions before you assume your storm-damaged tree can't be saved.

Other than the storm damage, is the tree basically healthy and vigorous?

Are major limbs broken?

Has the leader (main upward-trending branch) been lost?

Is at least 50 percent of the tree's crown (branches and leaves) still intact?

How big are the wounds where branches have been broken or bark has been damaged?

Are there remaining branches that can form a new branch structure?

Is the tree of a desirable species for its location?

What if my tree has significant bark loss?

The pdf answers these questions and helps your customer assess whether his tree is a keeper, a wait-and-see or a "say goodbye." If it's too close to call, your customer may need to call in a professional to help decide what to do. The pdf encourages your customer to hire not just anybody who shows up at the door after a storm, but a knowledgeable ISA Certified Arborist.

2017 Texas Arboriculture and Community Forestry Awards

2017 Outstanding Arbor Day Award: the City of Tyler

Tyler has made tremendous progress since 2015 in their urban forestry program with a new inventory and analysis process, Arbor Day celebrations, new partnerships, and ordinance changes. Tyler has now been a Tree City USA for eight years and just received its second consecutive Tree City USA Growth Award.

2015–2016 began bringing the program up to speed, but 2016–2017 was an amazing leap. The three Arbor Day events that the City of Tyler held accommodated over 2,000 participants. The three events included two different tree plantings and a seedling giveaway of over 2,000 trees.

Prior to 2016 Tyler's largest tree planting did not have 100 volunteers. Certified Arborist Cody Goldman was hired in June of 2015 and knew changes had to be made. Cody started an inventory program that encompassed a 100% continuous annual inventory of Tyler's 28 parks, three cemeteries, and numerous tourism buildings (City Hall, convention centers, etc.). This allowed the Parks Department to look at the different areas that needed supplemental tree plantings and places where large Arbor Day tree plantings could be held. The cycle is restarted every three years with roughly 33% of the public areas inventoried each year, based on acreage.

After the first year's inventory, Lindsey Park in Tyler was selected to hold the following two years of Arbor Day



Bill Oates of TFS (second from left) with Tyler winners (left to right) Paul Weil, Ken Wheeler, Rich Legler, Cody Goldman, Jerry Stuff, Aaron Martinez, and Jeff Tooler.

celebrations. In 2016 the weather did not cooperate as Cody had hoped, and this kept many registered volunteers at home. There were 57 trees planted with just over 100 volunteers. This particular planting currently has a success rate of 92%, with the 8% being a loss from vandalism.

The City of Tyler has been suffering budget cuts and other monetary issues, so the Parks Department knew that money had to be sought elsewhere through sponsors and partners. The Tyler Trees Committee is proud to say that for 2017 Arbor Day activities, over \$25,000 was raised through sponsors, donations, and grants. Over 20 sponsors were found for the events. The City of Tyler had over 450 volunteers for this year's planting. See a Tyler Arbor Day video at <http://bit.ly/TylerArbor>.

2017 Arboricultural Project of the Year: the Yandell Street Improvement Project by the City of El Paso and St. Clement's Parish School



Bill Oates (TFS) and Brent Pearson of El Paso.

This project is a quarter mile stretch of a three-lane city street named Yandell from Ochoa to Campbell. The right of way runs through the middle of the school's campus. The objectives of the work were to slow down traffic, improve the drainage, improve the walkability of the corridor,

eliminate the starkness and heat island effect of all the asphalt and concrete, and make it a safe corridor for the hundreds of first- through eighth-grade students that attend this school.

Over the course of many months, designs were vetted and plans were drawn, and approval was granted. The window for the work would have to take place when the students were on summer vacation, no small task considering the street had to be milled, and new curbing with bubble-outs, new sidewalks, drainage, reduction of lanes, water meter, trees, shrubs, and new asphalt had to be installed. All was done in-house with



Before (top) and after views of the El Paso project.

numerous departments contributing, and safety being the number one concern.

In the end 18 four-inch live oaks, 16 two-inch golden rain trees, and 780 five-gallon low-water use colorful shrubs were planted along the corridor and in the bubble-outs. Lanes were reduced, traffic was slowed, shade and color were provided, and drainage was restored. The corridor will only continue to look better as the landscape matures. “We feel we made a big difference in the quality of this area, and students will be able to experience firsthand the potential and the effect that trees and landscaping have on an urban corridor in Downtown El Paso.”

2017 Gold Leaf Award for Landscape Improvement: the Whisper Creek at Hollyhock Road project from Bexar County

The Bexar County Flood Control Program (BCFC) is a 10-year, \$500 million capital improvement program that was established by the Bexar County Commissioners Court in 2007. The program is designed to address flooding from a regional perspective, rather than by political or jurisdictional boundaries, and is the result of a partnership between Bexar County, the San Antonio River Authority, the City of San

Antonio and 20 suburban cities, known as the Bexar Regional Watershed Management. Bexar County has already invested \$400+ million in the past nine years to build over 50 flood control projects across our community.

The Bexar County Flood Control Program has worked with City of San Antonio Arborist Mark Bird since 2009 to develop an appropriate approach for their drainage projects as they pertain to the City of San Antonio Tree Ordinance. The result of that collaboration is the Ecological Assessment Protocol (EAP). Whisper Creek is one of the first BCFC projects to utilize the EAP. As a result of the EAP findings and input obtained from the public during several on-site meetings, Bexar County redesigned the project in order to:

- Remove 20 residential structures from the 100-year floodplain.
- Save 15 heritage oaks to achieve 100% heritage oak preservation, saving taxpayers money in mitigation.
- Preserve existing creek channel saving taxpayers money in mitigation and USACE permit
- Save two tree islands identified to be saved during public meetings with Mark Bird.

Natural channel design elements of planned improvements will help mitigate potential impacts to existing aquatic and environmental habitat by:

- Utilizing native plant species found on site to stabilize the banks after construction.
- Adding additional native plant species to stabilize the site to increase wildlife and plant species diversity.

Overall, utilization of the EAP for this project not only saved overall project costs, but it preserved all of the heritage oaks



Left to right: Bill Oates (TFS) with landscape improvement winners Mark Bird, Laurie Hawkins, and Elaiza Alvarez.

◀ and promoted long-term ecological species diversity in the area.

Unfortunately, we didn't receive any nominations for Arborist of the Year. The committee had a vigorous discussion and decided not to award this category this year and ask that you start preparing for next year's nomination. Keep an eye on the ISA Texas website and read your TreEmail to learn when the 2018 award nominations open. ■



The Bexar County project was designed to address serious flooding (above) through a variety of techniques, including stabilizing the soil with the help of native plants, and eliminating invasives.



Invasive plants, marked with orange paint, are being removed.



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▶ See the video



Dear ISA Friends,

As the leaves turn glorious colors across much of the nation this month, we find it a good time for pausing to consider TREE Fund's roots, which run deep and strong, anchoring us against challenges, both anticipated and unforeseen.

2017 marks the 15th anniversary of the trust agreement signed by Allan West and Jerry Morey to create Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund ("TREE Fund"), and we celebrate their foresight in empowering a model that works effectively and efficiently to this day. But our roots go even deeper than that, as TREE Fund is the successor organization to the International Society of Arboriculture Research Trust (ISART, founded in 1976) and the National Arborist Foundation (NAF, 1985).

One of the 1976 signatures on the original ISART articles of incorporation read "Hyland R. Johns" – and we are honored that Hyland is joining us as co-Chair of our 15th Anniversary Appeal. Please join us in supporting TREE Fund. We appreciate it, and it will make a difference.

Hyland R. Johns
Founding ISART
Trustee

J. Eric Smith
TREE Fund
President/ CEO

Editor's Note

Rebecca Johnson



Another Texas Tree Conference in the books. The networking this year was phenomenal – so many arborists from around Texas and speakers from all around the country. I had the pleasure of getting to have breakfast with John Ball the first morning and got to hear some fun stories. He saved the gruesome stuff for his presentation, not while we were eating, but we had some fun reminiscing about San Antonio's Bilingual Tree Worker Workshop serving barbecue after his talk there and how it didn't seem to damage our appetites. Texas, he tells me, is an interesting place. The people here have strong constitutions. Other places where he gives his safety talks people pass out; in Texas we stand up and take pictures. I think it was a compliment.

We've got new board members! I'm excited for the fresh energy and can't wait to see what they'll do. If you're interested in serving on a committee, let one of us know. If there's something you'd like to see ISA Texas (and the board) improve or implement, speak up. This year's business meeting was very well attended and we had lots of audience interaction. We LOVE that; we need to know what you guys want from the organization. Your board members (and their contact information) are on the ISA Texas website at <http://isatexas.com/about/board-of-directors/>.

This year we're particularly interested in improving our communications and outreach – both to members and to the general public. If you or someone you know has an interest in this, let us know. We're looking for people with a passion and a little spare time (doesn't have to be much). Help us get the word out that "Trees are Good. Trees need care. Arborists care for trees."

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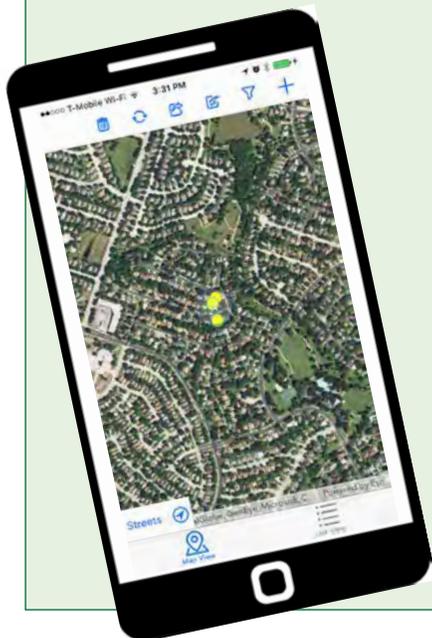
TREES COUNT



Trees Count is a new tree inventory app released to Apple iTunes and Google Play by Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS).

Modeled after the successful Level I Tree Risk Assessment mobile app (new updated version also released), Trees Count enables its users to identify and map individual trees and associated attributes. The app enhances the inspection process by facilitating easy data capture of data such as species, diameter (DBH), condition, conflicts and recommended maintenance.

Equipped with features like interactive mapping, simple navigation, tree attributes filters for easy searching, and seamless data import and export options to ArcGIS Online, Trees Count makes the maintenance and conservation of forested areas more manageable. Export data is compatible with i-Tree, and a companion reporting interface is available. Find Trees Count and Level I Tree Risk Assessment and their companion report interfaces on www.TexasForestInfo.com.



- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
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| Jason Atwood | Burleson | Joe Lawton | Denton |
| Vernon Autrey | Spring | Scott Lindquist | Kyle |
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| Mark Brooks | Canyon Lake | Mickey McCollum | Fort Worth |
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| Kimberly Gilbertson | Austin | Ron Scott | Akron OH |
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What's the Big **IDEa**?



Can you identify 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 January issue.

Hint: One of the folk tales about this tree is that it will predict the winter weather.

September winner



Last issue's winner was Mark Bentsen of Horticultural Solutions, who correctly identified the fruitless sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Rotundiloba'.

This issue's challenge was provided by ISA Texas Board Vice President Zaina Gates.