

In the shade

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

Vol. 38, No. 3
September,
2014



**It's coming, Texas,
be prepared!**



EAB



TREE CLINIC
PHARMACY

(512) 385 - 6604

Fall is the new spring.

Since 1983 TREE CLINIC PHARMACY, a Mauget Products Distributor for South Texas has offered expert diagnostic advice, PHC therapies and applicator training in the use of tree injection technologies.

We are proud to announce that we now serve all of Texas and offer overnight shipping to the major metropolitan areas. Call us and speak with our entomologist or consulting and diagnostic arborists today! (512) 385 - 6604



Mauget

PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Michael Sultan



As my final president's message, I want to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to serve as president of ISAT. I mentioned in my first message that we had a very diverse and professionally experienced Board of Directors, and I have been impressed by the level of participation and the healthy balance of leadership and support from the entire board this year. It has been a pleasure serving with this talented, creative, and dedicated group, as we worked together over the last ten months. Please join me in thanking the ISAT Board of Directors for the many volunteer hours they have given to serve you.

We also have been steadily planning for the main event – the 35th Annual Texas Tree Conference and the accompanying Tree Academy, Trade Show, Awards, and Tree School. Each year I look back at the conference and wonder how we will be able to match its success the following year. Yet each year I am once again thoroughly impressed by the thoughtfulness of the session topics and the quality of the presenters. This year is on track to be one of the best conference events ever. Please be sure to visit ISATexas.com for more information on the conference agenda + sponsor and exhibitor opportunities.

In addition to preparing for our annual conference, I had the opportunity earlier this month to attend my first ever ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show. This year's conference was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – *Great Trees on a Great Lake* – and it was incredible. I reconnected with some of the other local chapter leaders from around the world that I had met at the ISA Leadership Workshop a couple of years ago, and attended some fantastic education sessions. There was a lot of discussion about Emerald Ash Borer, biomechanics, urban and community forestry planning and resource assessment, and electric utility vegetation management and regulatory standards. What is great about an international ISA event is the experience of being around so many unique people with similar interests and the awareness of our universal passion for trees. I would highly recommend attending an ISA International Conference and Trade Show, especially since it will be in Fort Worth in 2016!

Finally, I will share my thoughts on ISA Texas and the value of your membership in this organization. ISAT is one of the strongest and most active of all the local chapters. It is difficult to understand if your ISA experience has been limited to ISAT events. I have attended other local chapter conferences and now have one international conference under my belt. I honestly feel that the caliber of our members, the quality of our events, and the dedication of our leadership is gaining attention throughout ISA. We are helping set the standard for what ISA represents, and we are helping shape the future of ISA as it continues to promote the importance of professional arboriculture across the globe.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity to serve as president of ISAT.

NEW MEMBERS

Mitchell David Brown	Johnson City
Chad Michael Burgess	Houston
Marco A Carranza	Weslaco
Jess M. Divin	New Braunfels
Patricia Dodson	Austin
Zaina Gates	Henderson
Alman Grant	San Diego
Tim Jackson	San Antonio
Matthew Adam Jedlicka	Boerne
Matt Johnson	Amarillo
Christopher Ochoa	Houston
Jacque Rowe	Georgetown
Preston Smith	Austin
Gregg Wertz	San Antonio

ON THE COVER

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is headed our way. It has been found on detection traps in three counties in southwestern Arkansas. See the article on page 4 for more information.

Photo: David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

In the Shade

is published six times a year
by the Texas Chapter,
International Society
of Arboriculture.

Editor: Oscar S. Mestas
Texas A&M Forest Service
omestas@tfs.tamu.edu
915-834-5610

Advertising Representative:
Duane Pancoast
duane@thepancoastconcern.com
585-924-4570

BEWARE! IT'S COMING!



Photo: Marianne Prue

Emerald ash borer found not far from Texas

by Melissa Fischer and Ronald Billings

Texans Beware! The emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, has been found on detection traps in Hot Spring, Clark, and Nevada counties in southwestern Arkansas. This is the first report of EAB in Arkansas. The state will most likely be added to the federal quarantine that prohibits movement of firewood and nursery stock in an effort to slow the spread of this invasive pest.

The emerald ash borer was found along Interstate Highway 30 in Arkansas, just north of the Texas/Louisiana border, which should be a major concern for Texas forest landowners. In recent years, the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS), in collaboration with the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (TAES), Sam Houston State University (SHSU), and other collaborators have conducted annual detection surveys in counties with ash trees in East and Central Texas to detect EAB adults. Fortunately, none have been found to date on any of several thousand detection traps. However, a signed preparedness plan involving multiple state and federal cooperators is in place to address this invasive pest if and when it arrives in Texas.

The emerald ash borer was found in the US for the first time in 2002 in

southeastern Michigan. It is thought the borer arrived in the early 1990s inside solid wood packing material carried on cargo ships or airplanes from its native range in China. Since then, it has spread to 22 states and into Ontario and Quebec in Canada. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that removal, treatment, and replacement of trees in urban areas as a result of emerald ash borer infestation cost at least \$1 billion each year in the U.S.

The beetle is only able to spread a few miles a year by flight, but because people move infested firewood, the borer has spread rapidly over much greater distances. Most recently, this invasive pest also has been found infesting ash trees in Missouri, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Colorado.

While emerald ash borer adults eat ash foliage and cause little damage, the larvae tunnel underneath the bark and feed on the phloem. Their feeding essentially girdles the tree, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients, resulting in death.

In many states where the emerald ash borer has been found, ash trees are being cut down and removed in an effort to prevent the insect's spread. Individual trees can be treated using the pesticide emamectin benzoate, which is now registered for use in protecting ash from

the emerald ash borer in several states. Emamectin benzoate is sold by Arborjet, Inc. under the trade name "TREE-äge" and must be purchased and applied by certified pesticide applicators.

Additional efforts are underway to provide long-term protection to ash in forested areas through the practice of biological control. Several species of parasitic wasps have been collected from Asia where emerald ash borer is native. These wasps kill their hosts by laying eggs inside of the emerald ash borer's eggs or larvae. So far, three wasp species (*Oobius agrili*, *Spathius agrili*, and *Tetrastichus planipennisi*) have been released into forests currently under attack. There is evidence that at least one of the three wasp species has become established and may eventually be successful in helping to control the emerald ash borer.

Arborists should keep an eye open for declining ash trees and signs of EAB infestation. These include trees dying back from the top, bark chipped off by woodpeckers, winding borer galleries beneath the bark or on the exposed sapwood, epicormic branching along the lower trunk, and "D"-shaped emergence holes along the trunk and larger branches. Suspected infested trees should be reported to the nearest Texas A&M Forest Service office. ■



Safety, Skill & Productivity Training for Tree Care Professionals.



Sign on for ArborMaster courses in San Antonio, TX
Hands-on, in the field training designed to
bring you to the next level!

Two courses being offered:

- L1 Precision Tree Felling, Chainsaw Safety & Handling: November 3-4, 2014
- L1 Tree Climbing Methods, Work Positioning & Best Practice: November 5-7, 2014

ISA and CTSP Continuing Education Units earned. For full course outlines, registration information, what's included and more, contact us today!

ARBORMASTER.COM | 860.429.5028

ARBORMASTER ALLIANCE PARTNERS



TTCC Chair explains major changes ahead for Texas Tree Climbing Championship and ITCC

by Kevin Bassett, TTCC Chair

This article will attempt to explain the changes in the International Tree Climbing Championship and what the Texas Chapter has done to make the changes workable.

I recently attended the ITCC in Milwaukee. It was a great event, well organized and very competitive. Our representative was Miguel Pastenes who replaced our champion, Vicente Peña-Molina, who was unable to compete due to injury. It was my pleasure to serve as a scoring judge on the Aerial Rescue event. Miguel finished in 11th place, which was very good considering the short notice that he would be the Texas contestant. Good job, Miguel!

Our friend Scott Forrest of New Zealand executed a near flawless climb of a huge cottonwood and won the men's title for the third time in the last four years. Many of you will remember meeting Scott when he participated in the TTCC several years ago. Josephine Hedger of the UK/I chapter won the women's event with a steady climb over the same tree. Many of you will also remember Jo from



her past visits to the TTCC. This ITCC win also gives Jo her third ITCC title. Congratulations to both of these outstanding climbers. We look forward to them and all of the other ITCC climbers competing here in Texas in 2016. I hope many of you will be volunteering for the ITCC when it comes to Texas. It takes an army of volunteers, and your efforts will be appreciated.

As many of you know by now, the ITCC has decoupled from the ISA Annual Conference for a trial period of two years. This includes the 2015 ITCC now scheduled to be held in Tampa, Florida, March 21–24, 2015. The 2016 ITCC is to be held in Texas in roughly the same time frame in 2016. An event venue and the exact dates are still to be determined, but the work necessary to arrive at these important decisions is in progress.

The overall reaction of members to this change has been very negative, but after having the opportunity to learn more about the reasons for the change and the possibilities of growing the event, I have had a great change in my attitude about the future of the event. As the host chapter for ►

Technical Aspects of Tree Appraisal

Earn CEUs with this 4-part Online Course

Tree appraisals play an important role in tree inventories, real-estate transactions, plant condemnation actions, insurance claims, and more. But, what exactly is involved in establishing a correct appraisal?

The American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA) is now offering a course that explores the technical aspects of replacement cost and trunk formula methods—size, species, condition, and location—providing you with the tools to perform any appraisal with confidence.

Instructors.....Dr. James Clark, RCA #357
Brian Gilles, RCA #418
Lisa Hammer, RCA #333

CEUs.....ASCA and ISA have approved this 4-part online course for 4 CEUs.

Register Now asca-consultants.org.

Members of Texas Chapter ISA receive a 5% discount off the non-member rate when using the code **TISAappr** when registering.



asca
AMERICAN SOCIETY of
CONSULTING ARBORISTS

both the ISA conference and the ITCC in 2016, I hope that we will band together and do a great job of hosting these events and moving our society onward into the future. So, that said, I would like to inform you of decisions which have been made to make the transition possible, and as painless as possible.

First issue we had to deal with was the selection of the 2015 Texas ITCC representative. While it would be really easy to just designate the 2014 champion as our contestant, it would be far better to allow the top climbers to earn the honor of being the Texas Chapter competitor at the 2015 ITCC. We determined that the possibility of having another full TTCC prior to the next ITCC was impractical. Therefore a compromise was made to have the 2015 Texas champion be determined in a Master's Challenge event to be held Saturday October 4th in concert with the Texas Tree Conference, which ends Friday October 3rd. I hope some of our members will stay over an extra day to cheer on our top five competitors from the 2014 TTCC held last May. These climbers not only were the top five based on that competition, they all scored above a threshold of 100 of 200 possible points in the preliminary rounds. This solution, I learned, has also been adopted by some other chapters as we all wrestle with the change.

Finally, we will hold a full TTCC in the late spring or early summer to select our champion for the 2016 ITCC. In this manner we will be on a schedule which will allow a champion to be selected in time for the 2017 and future ITCC events, regardless of whether the ITCC continues being scheduled separately from the ISA Annual Conference or returns to the previous scheduling. No determination has been made of exact dates or venue for the 2015 full TTCC. I am completely open to consider all possibilities; however we will have to make these determinations before January 1, 2015. I plan to be attending the Texas Tree Conference and I will be available to listen to your input regarding these issues.

I also took the opportunity to sit in on the ITCC committee meeting while I was in Milwaukee. I very much appreciated the manner in which I was accepted into this committee meeting even though I am not a member of the ITCC committee. I was allowed to express my ideas and concerns relative to the future of the event, and they were respectfully received and are under consideration.

I would like to express my take on the future of the decoupling idea. As many of my fellow long-time chapter members can remember, the TTCC used to be held in concert with our annual conference. In order to make both events work better

we determined that separating the two events was best for our chapter. The ISA is determined that this may be best for the International organization as well, and the two year decoupling will allow a test of the possibilities. There are many arguments to be made on both sides of the issue. I would like to point out some of these.

Sharon Lily with the ISA is determined that there will be an expanded educational opportunity available in concert with the ITCC. It is my belief that these educational opportunities will and should be focused on practical arboriculture. This will benefit ISA members and the trees we care for.

Another consideration is that holding the ITCC event separately allows the ISA conference and the ITCC events to be held in different locations, not necessarily in the same chapter. This opens the door to a selection process which would allow the very best outdoor sites to be located, evaluated, utilized and possibly re-used on a cyclic basis. Milwaukee was a great example of this possibility. It had been 13 years since the ITCC used this same venue. A few climbers, judges and officials were present from both events, and the venue was excellent in every way for both the 2001 and 2014 events.

Many of the venues the ITCC has been forced to use over the years have had various limitations. An independent selection process would allow the very best sites in the various regions to be found and utilized for future events such as the ITCC or the ETCC, APTCC, or the NATCC. These sites have the potential to become centers for training and the dissemination of practical knowledge needed in our industry.

Change is always difficult to embrace, but change can be a very positive experience. While I cannot quantify the positive influence participation in the Tree Climbing Championships has provided to me, I can tell you the practical knowledge I have learned, along with the advancements in safer, more efficient climbing techniques over the years have been the net result of participation in these events. Overall, I can tell you that I am a much better arborist now than I would have been without these opportunities.

As with all things, you will only get out what you put in. I've been ALL IN with the TTCC and the ITCC for many years. What I have received in return cannot be measured, yet is invaluable. I look forward to seeing you all at the ISAT conference, and I hope you will support the effort to make the 2016 ISA Conference and the 2016 ITCC be the best they can be. Texas is well known for our hospitality and can-do attitude. I hope and expect that we will live up to our well-deserved reputation. ■



Herbicidally Speaking . . .

by Greg David

Most arborists deal with herbicide damage to trees on a regular basis. Damage from 2,4D and dicamba is all too common, the recent Imprelis issue made national headlines, and around the Lone Star state and across other parts of the country where the shale oil and gas play is booming, damage from soil sterilants, like Bromacil and Pramitol, seems to be on the rise.

A previously little-known herbicide has now begun to receive a lot of attention across the south due to a number of fairly large tree damage claims. The product is known as metsulfuron methyl ("MSM"). This herbicide is most commonly applied by commercial lawn care firms, golf course personnel, or other professional applicators, and it often comes packaged under the trade names of either Blade or Manor.

Symptoms vary from sudden, widely scattered branch death to rapid browning and desiccation of the entire tree canopy. The dieback usually occurs rapidly, within two to four weeks of the herbicide application date, and dissection and examination of woody tissues often reveals brown (dead) phloem on affected branches.

Live oaks seem to be especially susceptible, although damage to crepe myrtle, cedar elm, and other trees has also been reported. The average half-life of MSM in soil is reported to be 30 days. Data regarding damage-threshold levels within leaf tissues has been hard to come by, but, in at least one case, symptoms have been observed in live oaks with as little as 22 parts per billion of MSM within leaf tissues.

Although the MSM label cautions applicators to avoid applying the product near desirable trees, a lot of damage seems to be showing up across the southern US anyway:

- Suspected MSM damage was first noticed on live oak in Florida in 2008.
- Two limited experiments, conducted by Florida state forest service staff, confirmed MSM toxicity to live oak trees.
- Florida researchers have received anecdotal reports of MSM-related damage to thousands of trees across the United States.
- Damage in Florida has been mainly confined to live oaks with bare ground or mulch rings below, so the mode of entry appears to be through the root system.

- MSM has been implicated in at least three large herbicide claims in Texas.
- Reportedly, one of the researchers involved with the initial EPA registration of MSM in the 1980's voiced concerns regarding tree damage by MSM back then.
- The original MSM patent expired in 2008, so MSM became cheaper and more available to a wide market at that time, which may explain the relatively sudden increase in reported tree problems.
- MSM has been implicated in the loss of thousands of willow oaks in North Carolina.
- MSM is routinely used to kill oak trees in pine plantations, so toxicity to live oak is not a surprise.
- MSM appears to kill the phloem, resulting in localized branch death (or trunk death). The precise mechanism of damage is poorly understood (where the product accumulates within the tree / what levels of MSM cause damage / what cultural factors may play a role in MSM damage, etc.).

It is important to note that, at least in the Texas cases, the implication that MSM was the culprit is only that—an implication. The damage was confined to the areas treated, the damage showed up quickly following the treatments, MSM was found within the plant tissues, and other biotic and abiotic

causes for the damage appear to have been ruled out. We will probably never know precisely how the chemicals were mixed, what might have been left over inside the spray tanks from the previous day's work, how the products were actually applied, or why certain trees became highly symptomatic while nearby trees remained symptom-free. So, until more information on MSM is available, "implicated" is probably the right word.

What to do if you suspect MSM damage:

1. Consider sending tissue and soil samples to a lab, such as APT Labs, in Reading, Pennsylvania, to confirm chemical levels.
2. Avoid flushing the soil with water. Heavy irrigation just improves MSM uptake within the tree.



- 3. Consider applying flowable activated charcoal to help detoxify the soil.
- 4. Protect symptomatic trees from borers and other opportunistic pests.

The good news is that the damage appears to be limited to the acute damage that shows up within a month or two of the herbicide treatment. In the Texas cases, some trees had to be replaced, while others were simply pruned and coddled for a while.



It would be handy to know how severe this problem is across our great state, so if you've run into possible MSM damage, please drop me a note: gpdavid@treeconsult.com

Greg David is a Registered Consulting Arborist and a Board-Certified Master Arborist with TreeConsult, in Muenster. ■



The Right Tools For The Job



Call for a free catalog – 800-441-8381
arborist.com

Good color. Vigor. Health.

Three great results from Doggett's tree fertilizer.



By adding humates, natural zeolites, a specialty dispersant and an antivolatilization agent, Doggett's tree fertilizer allows more nutrients to get into the tree system with little or no leaching from the soil.

The result is a more highly utilized form of tree fertilizer that promotes good color, vigor and health for your trees, without pushing growth.

DISTRIBUTED BY
TREE CLINIC PHARMACY
512-385-6604



THE
DOGGETT
CORPORATION

800-448-1862 | doggettcorp.com

GIS Analysis Leads Austin's Proactive Urban Forest Maintenance Plan

by Lara Schuman, Forester, City of Austin Urban Forestry Program

The City of Austin contains over 200 publicly owned parks covering over 16,000 acres and thousands of trees. Active maintenance of the urban forest is required in order to maintain a standard of public safety and appearance. The City of Austin's Urban Forestry Program is tasked with the care of these trees.

For many years, tree maintenance in the City has largely been performed in response to reports of dead or high-risk trees. In 2013, Austin City Council increased the Urban Forestry Program's budget for 2014, allowing for an increase in staff and the purchase of additional equipment. A result of this budget increase was that resources have been targeted to the development of a proactive tree maintenance program, where preventative tree care is prioritized in order to reduce the future number of dead or high-risk trees in the area.

A team of foresters lead by Alan Halter, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialist, developed a plan to prioritize the proactive tree maintenance in all of the parks. The plan uses GIS and various datasets to identify and prioritize which parks will receive immediate tree maintenance and which parks require a higher level of service.

The park prioritization was based on the following five categories: usage, liability, appearance expectations, community support, and equality. The "usage" category was weighted the highest, with the rationale that heavily used parks will have more user/tree conflicts and consequently more risk associated with trees. The "community support" category adds preference to parks supported by the community; these parks will therefore have greater community expectation of maintenance by the City. Also important was the "equality" category, which calls for more attention

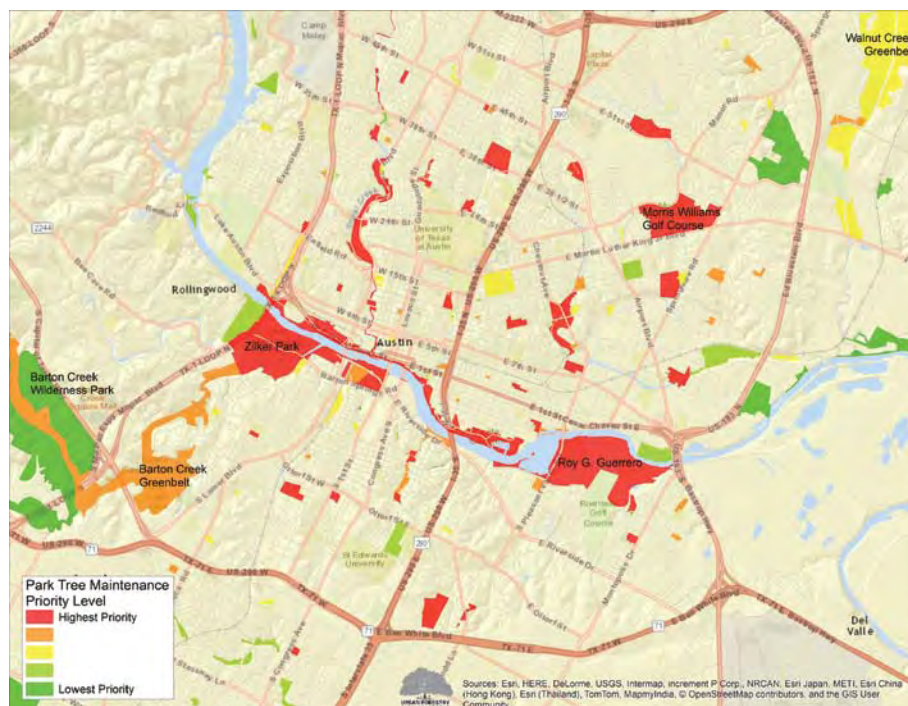
to traditionally underserved areas. Within these categories, 14 different criteria were used to assess "points" in a numerical rating scale. The criteria were summarized, providing a total ranking for each park. This rank determines the current tree maintenance level of service and dictates which and when maintenance tasks will be scheduled for each park.

In order of highest ranking, parks are visited by an ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified inspector. Aerial images of the park are used to identify active-use areas, where the inspector performs a risk assessment in order to determine appropriate tree maintenance tasks. These tasks include tree removal, crown cleaning of dead wood, removal of broken hanging limbs, and pruning of low limbs overhanging thoroughfares. Park inspection maps are then digitized and maintenance work is updated in GIS.

Due to the sheer number of parks in the City of Austin, the scope of proactive tree maintenance in 2014 is limited in

order for staff to cover the most ground and address the most serious safety issues. Beyond 2014, the scope of the proactive maintenance will include pruning for longevity, invasive species removal, and soil health improvements. Since it is likely that many trees will be removed during the initial process, the Urban Forestry Program's tree planting team will be able to use the plan to help determine where to focus future tree plantings as well.

Forestry staff is extremely excited to implement this new proactive plan after so many years of struggling to keep up with reactionary work only. Sixteen parks have received the proactive treatment so far, and both in-house crews and contractors are completing the tree maintenance. As Austin continues to grow at an unprecedented rate and additional parkland is being added on an almost monthly basis, the Urban Forestry Program is determined to keep pace and enable trees to do their work in providing the community with the benefits a rapidly growing city needs. ■



ISA Conference and Milwaukee were both a treat



by Courtney Blevins, CF, CA, Texas A&M Forest Service, Ft. Worth

Although I don't do it often, attending the ISA annual conference is always a treat. This year's conference seemed especially well organized, and although I'm sure there had to be some glitches I wasn't aware of them. Even the process of submitting CEU hours was a piece of cake.

A couple of things I really liked were the multiple concurrent session tracks and the length of time for each presentation. If I recall correctly there were always at least four different presentations going on at any given time, making it fairly easy to find one of interest. As a matter of fact, many times it was hard to choose which to attend due to there being so many of interest.

I liked the time allowed for each presentation too as most of them were limited to 30–40 minutes. While this makes it hard to dig down deep into any one topic, I find it preferable to listen to these briefer talks and then if I want to know more I can always follow up on my own time for more information.

As for the location, I was very impressed with the city of Milwaukee. It's not a huge city but felt bigger than it is, and there has been a lot of re-development work in the downtown as mixed use. Of course it wasn't 100 degrees there so that played a big part in my enjoyment! Highs were around 72 degrees each of the days I was there.

A great job by ISA and I look forward to attending again someday!

*Courtney Blevins served as editor of In the Shade for many years.
Welcome back to our pages, Courtney!* ■



Photos: Courtney Blevins





TCC Highlights

Waco Convention Center, October 1-3, 2014
For registration and other information: isatexas.com

Great speakers including **Dr. Tom Smiley**, Researcher, Bartlett Tree Laboratory; **Dr. Francesco Ferrini**, Professor, University of Florence (Italy); **Dr. John Ball**, Professor, South Dakota State University; **Skip Kincaid**, Forester, Davey Resource Group, and many more!

Specialized tracks for commercial, utility and municipal arborists

Texas Tree Schools in English and Spanish

Texas Tree Academy: Tree Diagnosis Workshop ■ Big Trade Show
Electrical Hazard Awareness Training ■ 2014 Texas Tree Awards
Auction benefitting research and scholarships ■ Networking opportunities

Call for TCC Auction Items

ISAT is seeking large and small items of interest to tree professionals—anything from a gift certificate for your services to artwork, maybe a tree from your operation or a round of golf at your home course. Perhaps your spouse, friend or relative owns a business that would donate a prize. Does your city tourism board have a gift package that spotlights your city or the local college? Do you have any awesome things laying around your house that a fellow tree person would love to bid on—like rare tree books, tree knick knacks, or tree art? Small items are OK; we can put them together with other items to make a great package.

The conference is October 1–3 and we would like to have confirmation of items by the week of September 22nd.

Please contact ISAT board member Terry Kirkland at 432-685-5512 or TKirkland@midland.edu if you have ideas or items available for the auction.

Advanced technology for tree treatment...

TREATS MOST TREES IN 5 MINUTES OR LESS!



- ◆ No drilling damage
- ◆ No mixing at job sites
- ◆ No guarding or return trips
- ◆ No waiting for uptake

ArborSystems
Tree Injection Solutions

800.698.4641
ArborSystems.com

Wedgle
Direct-Inject™
TREE INJECTION SYSTEM



"Successful
and most
profitable
add-on
service"



Multiple
injection tips
designed for
all types of
trees, conifers
and palms

Insecticides • Fungicides
PGRs • Antibiotics
MicroNutrients

Undivided attention

by Gary O'Neil, Forester,
Vegetation Management, CenterPoint Energy

May I have your undivided attention as you read this article please?

What does that mean – Undivided Attention? The best way to describe undivided attention is to talk about the opposite – divided attention.

Divided attention is a mental state wherein we try to focus on multiple things at the same time. It's better known as *multi-tasking*.

Studies have found that performance and production can suffer greatly when we split our attention to multiple tasks or information sources, and that divided attention (multitasking) is severely limited.

Have you ever gotten lost in a neighborhood and turned down the radio to better concentrate on the street signs? The radio has nothing to do with your vision. Or does it? When attention is deployed to one modality (listening to the radio) it necessarily extracts a cost on another modality (the visual task of driving).

The degree of the limitations hinge upon the tasks and activities we attempt. Obviously we all walk and breathe. Breathing is so routine and ingrained we can easily perform other activities simultaneously. Ever try to read to read a book and watch a TV at the same time?

It is much harder to do two very similar tasks (read and talk) at the same time than it is to do two dissimilar tasks (run and talk). If you can use separate areas of the brain, that will help, but be warned: the brain doesn't always segregate perceptual information as clearly as you think. You might find yourself running into a light pole.

Not surprisingly some people feel that multitasking should be generally discouraged, but others declare that society should embrace it to increase productivity and keep us sharp. Both are correct within a certain framework. Research suggests you can get better at multitasking; however it is *not* possible to avoid suffering a decrease in effectiveness, even for very low levels of multitasking.

When we multitask our brains divide their attention between the chosen tasks. An example is reading an email and engaging in a conversation. Some individuals have more of a tendency towards multitasking, and the digital age may be pushing us all in this direction like never before. However, research has shown

that humans have a strict capacity on the numbers of stimuli absorbed, and divided attention leads to performance loss.

This is why talking / texting on a cell phone while driving is so dangerous.

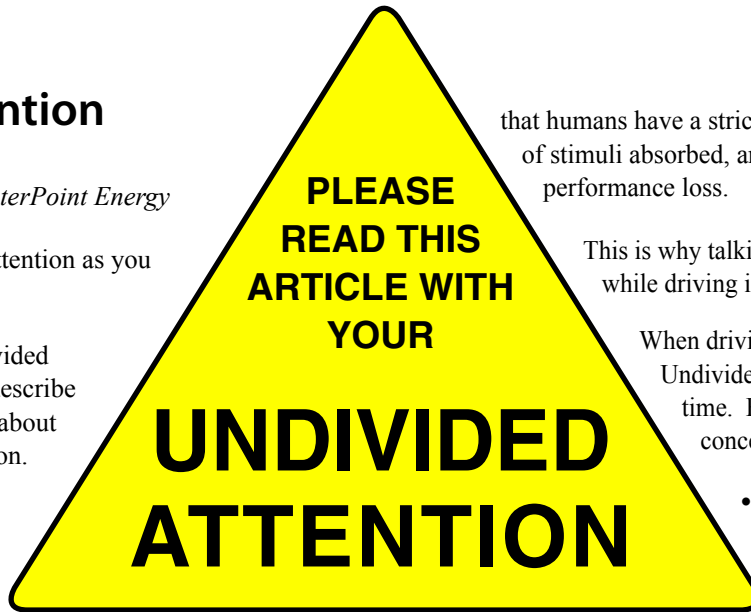
When driving a vehicle please give it your Undivided Attention. Each and every time. Eliminate the distractions and concentrate on driving safely.

- Do not text while driving.
- Do not dial a call while driving.
- If engaged in a phone conversation while driving,

you must be using a hands-free device.

As you go about your daily activities be aware of the limitations we all have as humans. Focus on the task at hand. Keep your eyes moving and brain open to other stimuli, but concentrate on your work activity.

Thank you for your Undivided Attention, and please work safe. ■



One of the
Largest Selections
of **Pole Saw Blades**
for the
Tree Care Industry

9s-B
5s-B
57s-B

And from **Fanno International**

FI 17s-B
FI 13s-B
FI H13s-B
FI K15s-B
FI 1125s-B



FANNO SAW WORKS

Since 1921,
three generations
of the **Fanno Family**
have manufactured the
Highest Quality Saws
& Pruning Tools.

"Where our quality
is a tradition."

P.O. Box 628,
Chico, CA 95927
www.fannosaw.com
(530) 895-1762

INTRODUCING

QUIK-JETTM AIR

SWITCH IT ON

Our new lightweight air-powered device increases productivity.

Precise dose and measurement
you can see

One-thumb operation for fast
injections

Durable aluminum body weighing
less than 2 pounds



Quick-connect adapter
hooks up to air tank



Learn more: Call 781-935-9070 or visit
arborjet.com/air

ARBORJET[®]
Revolutionary Plant Health Solutions

The loss of a majestic landmark

by Glen Jennings, Arbor Masters Tree Service®

A historic pecan tree and Texas landmark at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens (FWBG) has died but will not be forgotten. This extraordinary pecan tree stood the test of time for more than 200 years, but old age and drought conditions over the past three or four years have finally taken their toll.

The beautiful FWBG was once the site of three natural springs used by Native Americans and early settlers and was home to a cotton gin, a gravel pit and a dumpsite for the US Calvary. Around 1912, 37 acres were purchased to become the Rock Springs Park. In 1926, the newly appointed forester, Raymond C. Morrison, saw an opportunity to educate the public about

plants and trees. Work began in 1929, and by 1935 the Ft. Worth Garden Club opened the Rock Springs Building as the first established garden center in the state of Texas, with offices, library and greenhouses. This majestic pecan tree stood as a witness to 200 years of history.

Two of the springs in the area completely dried up some time ago, but one actually still had a trickle of water until about five years ago. Sadly it too has since dried up. This may have played a role in the tree's decline as the deep roots were all around the springs area. Arbor Masters Tree Service® does a lot of work in and around the FWBG and I have seen the tree declining for several years. Recently we received a request to try and save the tree, but unfortunately, we were unable to do so. The decision was made to have Arbor Masters remove the tree down to the main trunk and leave it standing for now.

This removal did pose a challenge. The tree was almost 100 feet tall and had numerous smaller trees under it as well as a memorial plaque that was not to be damaged. The other complication was that located in the hollow trunk about 30 feet up, was a colony of honey bees! Arbor Masters knows that bees are a very important part of the ecosystem (there are thousands of flowers at the FWBG that need to be pollinated) so we decided to work around them rather than remove them. Thankfully, they were pretty docile with only one or two bee stings to the arborist before he decided to put on a full bodied bee suit, in 98 degree temperatures, to work on that part of the tree.

The majestic pecan tree was reduced to a 35-foot-tall, 6-foot-diameter trunk. The FWBG is actually considering casting a mold of the trunk to create a cement replica as a memorial—a great tribute to the Texas state tree, *Carya illinoensis*, pecan.

I have only known this tree since 2008 when my family and I moved to Texas, but knowing its history and having the privilege to work on it and around it, it seems like I have known it forever. ■



A bee suit like the one used to work on the pecan at FWBG.

Anthony Crezenso (l) and Richard Baker take a break.



Love Trees?
Tell the world

and support urban
forestry across Texas

Revenue from the Texas Urban Forestry Council license
plate helps fund the TUFC Micro-grant Program

www.texasurbantrees.org



Staying safe in a hazardous industry: Presentation & roundtable Sept. 9

Injuries and fatalities are on the rise in the Houston area. How can we work within our own companies and organizations, as well as together as an industry, to create a culture of safety?

On September 9, Margaret Spencer, Regional Outreach Coordinator with TCIA, will review TCIA's recently released *Five-Year Analysis of Tree Care Accidents*, and James Shelton with OSHA will give a presentation including recent accident summaries for the Houston area.

The event will be held from 10 am to noon at the Texas A&M Forest Service, 2010 North Loop West, Houston. Sponsors are the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council and Tree Care Industry Association.

There will be a Q&A session and an open forum to discuss ideas. CEUs are available. Admission is free.

RSVP by Sept. 5 to Margaret Spencer, mspencer@tcia.org

Citrus greening identified near Houston

Citrus greening recently has been confirmed in a tree at a retail nursery south of Houston. The disease, which is spread by an insect called the Asian citrus psyllid, has no cure and eventually kills infected trees, according to AgriLife Extension horticulture specialist Monte Nesbitt of College Station.

Fruit from infected trees is bitter but poses no health problems to humans. The disease exists throughout the world; the first case of citrus greening in Texas was discovered near San Juan in early 2012.

Nesbitt encourages tree owners in Harris County and throughout South Texas to be vigilant to help prevent the spread of citrus greening. "It takes year-round monitoring and insecticide treatment if they are present."

Read the article by Kathleen Phillips of Texas AgriLife at: <http://southwestfarmpress.com/orchard-crops/citrus-greening-identified-near-houston?>

— thanks to Patrick Wentworth



STEINUSA



FRED MARVIN
Pole Pruners and Saws Since 1943



Cmi



CLIMBING

RIGGING

PINNACLE
ARBORIST SUPPLIES

ROPE

HARDWARE

SAFETY



STOKES



The Original Tree Climbers' Gear

www.PinnacleArborist.com

Little Rock, Arkansas, 501-663-8733 pinnaclesupplies@att.net Tulsa, Oklahoma 918-583-9151

Urban Forest Connections: new webinar series

The USDA Forest Service is launching a new monthly webinar series, **Urban Forest Connections**. These webinars

(second Wednesdays 1–2 pm ET) will bring experts together to discuss the latest science, practice, and policy on urban forestry and the environment.

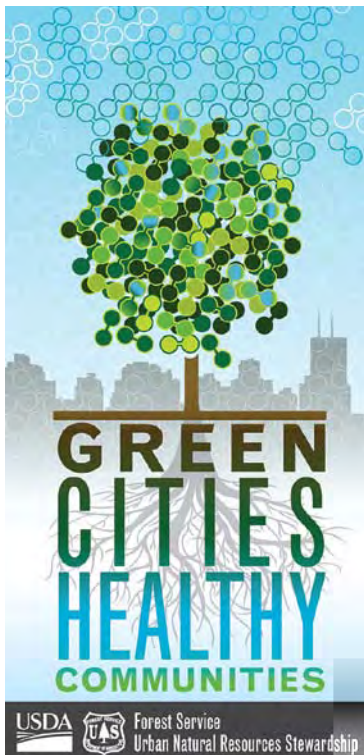
Each webinar will highlight a different topic. Presenters will discuss key issues, share the latest research and technologies, and showcase successful projects and partnerships that are putting science into practice.

The series will kick off on September 10 with a presentation on Urban Forests for Human Health and Wellness by the

University of Washington's Kathleen Wolf and Legacy Health's Teresa M. Hazen. Details coming soon.

The Forest Service is seeking a 1.0 CEU with the ISA for each webinar. For updates, check out <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/>

Urban Forest Connections is a product of the Forest Service's National Urban Forest Technology & Science Delivery Team. The team's mission is to help inform environmental stewardship and sustainably sound decisions about urban and community lands and the broader watershed, for wildlife and people. ■





- Consultation
- Tree Preservation
- Appraisal / Diagnosis
- Litigation Support

Greg David, RCA/BCMA
www.treeconsult.com
(888) 658-8030

TreeConsult



**PROTECTING THE REPUTATION
OF THE UTILITIES WE SERVE...**
IT'S PART OF OUR JOB

Nelson
TREE SERVICE, INC.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

800-522-4311 • www.nelsontree.com/ad/reputation.html

▶ See the video



SAAA helps restore historic cemetery

by David M. Vaughan, Certified Arborist, Etter Tree Care

During our May San Antonio Arborist Association (SAAA) meeting, State Representative Joe Farias and his chief of staff Ana Ramirez personally requested help with restoration efforts at an historic neighborhood cemetery. San Juan Capistrano Cemetery is a small community cemetery, about an acre in size, located very close to Mission San Juan Capistrano in the old neighborhood of Bergs Mill. Headstones date back into the 1800s, and it is the final resting place for several WWI and WWII veterans. Mission San Juan Capistrano was founded in 1731.

The week prior to our meeting a large tree had fallen in the cemetery and Mark Kroeze with the Texas A&M Forest Service had helped volunteers from the neighborhood remove the danger. Mark had suggested they approach SAAA to see if we would be willing to help with the neighborhood-sponsored restoration of the cemetery. Their budget was zero, but lots of volunteer citizens were willing to lend a hand.

Our board approved the effort and President Booker Arradondo asked for volunteers. Etter Tree Care volunteered a 4-man crew and they were soon joined by a 3-man crew from Bartlett Tree

Experts. Booker's Tree Care sponsored some of the logistical aspects of the project, and Booker was reluctantly responsible for representing our industry to the news media. Who better than the Texas Arborist of the Year? Our plan was to do as much as we could on the Tuesday following the Memorial Day weekend. Rep. Farias committed to providing breakfast and lunch for the work crews.

Amazingly, in this period of severe drought, it poured rain all day Tuesday and we had to delay the effort for a day. Rep. Farias had spent his Memorial Day on Monday smoking two briskets for our lunch. Rather than keep the BBQ for a day due to the rainout, he and his staff made plates which they sold for \$5 a plate to the neighborhood and made over \$300 to help finance maintenance at the cemetery.

Wednesday was a beautiful day. It took both crews all day to do safety pruning and to remove a couple of dead trees. As promised, breakfast and lunch were provided. Breakfast was tacos. The good kind with super tortillas, made locally by folks who learned to make tacos from their grandmother (or maybe the Conquistadors). And there was coffee

from Starbucks. For lunch there were thick brisket poorboys with all the fixins provided by a neighborhood sandwich shop.


Inspired folks from the area arrived all day long ready to help, including a 92-year-old WWII veteran who showed up wearing his work gloves, asking what he could do to help. We thought about telling him he needed a hard hat, but he would have walked home and come back with his army helmet. It took some effort, but we convinced him to enjoy some coffee and then found him a less dangerous task.

It was apparent that Rep. Farias's leadership galvanized the community as he, his wife and staff spent the entire day with us, greeting his constituents and making sure the tree crews were fed and hydrated. Local news stations sent crews and we got some local news coverage which Booker handled well. He may be reluctant, but he is photogenic and very good in front of the camera. Rep. Farias said, "This is an important reminder of the professional services arborists provide to the community. They are not only properly educating us on tree care but also giving this cemetery the respect it so desperately needs. I can't thank them enough." He later told us that if we ever needed him to speak at any of our events such as Arbor Day, he would be pleased to be invited and to participate.

It was a good day. Both crews worked well together and managed to get all of the safety pruning and removals completed in one day. The historic neighborhood ended up with a little money to help with other events to continue the clean-up and maintenance of the cemetery. Many of the neighborhood came by and thanked us for our efforts to include our 92-year-old veteran. And through our efforts we demonstrated proper tree care while getting a chance to really thank some veterans for their service. *SAAA thanks you for your service.* ■



Lunch with State Representative Joe Farias (l to r): Rep. Farias, Rafael Narvaez, Mario Ibarra, Miguel Ibarra, Roberto Mata, Marco Aranda, Jesus Angeles, and the back of Ricardo Guerrero.



Upward mobility has a new meaning these days...

As the only national trade organization dedicated to tree care businesses, becoming a member of TCIA is the best investment you can make.

BUSINESS TOOLS – From professional standards to the latest publications, members receive dynamic tools to run their businesses safely, efficiently, and successfully.

EVENTS – Enjoy members-only savings and deep discounts on TCIA-hosted workshops and events around the country.

SAFETY TOOLS – Worker safety goes hand in hand with professionalism and it's a primary focus of TCIA. We build programs, tools and resources to improve safety for our members and the industry.

NETWORKING – Join our community and participate in targeted discussions, events, and more with TCIA members from around the country.

MAJOR SAVINGS – Enjoy deep discounts on training, educational materials and other valuable tools.

MARKETING TOOLS – Use our exclusive marketing materials to find, keep and impress customers. From videos to postcards, we've got what you need.

Start taking advantage of membership benefits right away for first-time members, at the price of only \$195. Limited time offer.

Join today!



TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Advancing tree care businesses since 1938

membership@tcia.org

www.tcia.org

1-800-733-2622

Wachtel Tree Service, TCIA member company - growing to the top in the '50s!

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER**

2013 Oakwood Trail
College Station, TX 77845

www.isatexas.com



PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
AUSTIN, TX
Permit No. 1560

What's the Big **I**Dea?



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. If you don't know it, check the page for an answer in a few days.

Hint: Epigeal germination.

May Big**I**Dea winner

The last Big **I**Dea winner (in May) was Rebecca Johnson, outreach and education coordinator for TreeFolks. Rebecca is the wife of Paul Johnson, former editor of *In the Shade*. She correctly identified the Lacey oak, *Quercus laceyi*.

