

In the Shade

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

Vol. 40, No. 3

September, 2016

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CONFERENCE AND
TRADE SHOW
IN FORT WORTH





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In the Shade

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Vincent Debrock



Howdy. I am still recovering from the excitement of the ISA conference that just finished last week in Fort Worth. It was impressive. Jim Carse, local committee chair, did an outstanding job with our chapter and other volunteers, notably Melinda Adams and Susan Henson and many others, and showed the world of arboriculture what Texas Friendly means. The ISA team put up an impressive professional event as always!

Moving forward, the elections should be in full swing by the time you read this. Please take a moment to vote to shape up your new board. As we do not have our annual October conference, this year's annual meeting for the changing of the directors and officers will take place at the ISA Texas members meeting and EAB workshop, Friday, September 30, at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, Building E Auditorium, 17360 Coit Rd., Dallas. Your new board will then start its tenure with a retreat in early October to plan the next great year of events, workshops and the 2017 conference.

This is my last President's message. It has been my honor to be leading the chapter this year during this exceptional growth period. Texas is full of opportunities for our industry. Consider stepping up and volunteering. I have gotten to know a great bunch of folks during my time at the board and will be happy to continue to pursue this passion that we all share. The standing committees and all the contact info you need are posted on our website, www.ISATexas.com.

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ON THE COVER

Our international visitors were treated to a Rangers game while in Ft. Worth for the ISA Conference. The fireworks after the game were a big hit. Photo by John Giedraitis.

EDITOR'S NOTE by Rebecca Johnson



It's hard to believe that I'm wrapping up my first year as Editor. I started with a conference and I'm wrapping up the year with a conference. It's been an amazing first year, due in HUGE part to all the wonderful contributors. I've had the privilege of being in the position to make difficult decisions about which articles get published and which don't, although eventually most articles do get published.

If you missed the ISA International Conference in Ft. Worth, you missed a lot. The opportunity to network with peers from around the world is invaluable, not to mention all the great educational opportunities that are provided. The ISA staff and volunteers did an amazing job picking great speakers this year; many times I had to flip a coin to decide which talk to go listen to.

Each year I attend the Women in Arboriculture networking session and for the last two years I've had the privilege of being on the committee to organize the event. The past two years we've focused on leadership and encouraging women to step up and seek out leadership positions. It's largely due to the event that I sought to become Editor and to join the ISA Texas board. As you can see from the pic below, the session is also open to men – as we need male advocates – and is very well attended for a separately ticketed event that starts at 7am on Tuesday. I hope you will join me in encouraging the women arborists around you to jump in with both feet and seek out leadership positions, either in the company where they work or in our chapter.



Photo: Rebecca Johnson

Hurry! It's Getting Late for this one!

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September 16 Water Management, Tree Nutrition and Fertilization, Soil Science, Tree Selection,

September 23 Plant Health Care, Diagnosis and Plant Disorders, Pruning and Oak Wilt, Trees and Construction

September 30 Tree Assessment and Risk Management, Urban Forestry, Tree Worker Safety, Climbing and Working in Trees



ISA TEXAS CHAPTER HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Attendees from 22 countries on 5 continents came to the ISA Conference August 13-17 in Fort Worth, hosted by the Texas Chapter. At the Trade Show, 128 companies occupied 25,500 square feet of exhibit space. And that's not counting the baseball, dancing, networking, cat rescue, and cowboy-style hardhats.

ISA comes to Fort Worth

by Jim Carse, Local Committee Chair

I hope everyone had a great time in Fort Worth. From the pictures I've seen and stories I've heard, it sounds like you did!

It was an awesome experience to be the local chair of the 2016 ISA Conference and Trade Show in Fort Worth. The best part for me was that I got a chance to work with some really great colleagues and volunteers. Seeing and talking to the vendors, attendees and ISA staff and watching it all come together was amazing. For me, this is why I'm involved in ISA and the Texas Chapter. Helping to educate and bring tree professionals together makes me happy. It tells me I'm in the right profession, that I made the right choice in life.

I'd like to thank all those who attended – by the way, we just learned today that the final attendance was 1,735, and 642 from Texas! That's 335 more than Florida last year and one of the best attended ISA conferences ever. Also, I'd like to extend my deepest thanks to all those who served on the committee and those who volunteered their time to work a shift.

Two people that really showed up were Melinda Adams, who did an outstanding job coordinating volunteers, and her citizen foresters were all over the place; and Susan Henson, who wrangled trees and plants and did a great job with decorations. Gene Gehring, Courtney Blevins, Rebecca Johnson, Michael Sultan, Micah Pace, Matt Grubisich, and Markus Smith and the rest of the committee all pitched in to pull off this great event, some even speaking and leading local tours. And another big thanks to our executive director, John Giedraitis, who did a ton of stuff before, during, and after the event.

Lastly, please consider volunteering for the Texas Chapter board of directors and/or an officer position. It's a great experience and we need your help to increase the professionalism of arboriculture in Texas.

All the best & see ya in Waco next year!

ISA Texas booth was a hit!

by John Giedraitis, ISA Texas Executive Director

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the ISA Texas booth at the conference. Yes, we had fun hawking ISA Texas cowboy hardhats and 'Come and Take It' muscle shirts to the folks from Taiwan and New Zealand, but it was especially great to see many of our over 1,000 Texas Chapter members there. In fact, the final count is in, and 642 of the 1,735 attendees were from the Lone Star State! The ISA Texas board wanted to be sure that all our members had at least one chance to attend and see the 'International' part of the ISA. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to attend twenty-two ISA conferences, and this year getting to welcome my friends from around the world in my home state was an extra special treat.

In 1981, I had my first experience with ISA when I was a student of Dr. Jim Kielbaso at Michigan State. He told me I was required to attend an arborist conference in Boyne Mountain, Michigan. Of course, I was dead broke and had no money for registration so he made me the official photographer, let me borrow his camera and let me tag along. The attendees were so wonderful and the meeting was such a blast (ask me about table racing sometime) that from then on I was hooked on ISA. Fast-forward four years later and I was the newly hired city forester for Austin. I joined the Texas Chapter and was roped into helping with the 1986 ISA Conference in San Antonio. There I got to know arborists from all over Texas. Over the next 30 years as a Texas Chapter

member, ISA Texas and ISA board member and now as executive director of ISA Texas, I have worked alongside with you– the friendly, dedicated and unselfish Texas arborists who work to improve our profession. Thanks to each and every one of you who has made your mark on Texas trees and the ISA.

See you in Waco in 2017!



Photo: John Giedraitis

COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend an International Conference thanks to the scholarship from Texas A&M Forest Service and, of course, the fact that it was held in Texas. There was great wealth of information imparted by renowned speakers from all over the world. I particularly liked the keynote speakers from Canopy Cat Rescue for showing not only the human aspect of arboriculture but also the importance of giving back to the community. I also had the privilege to participate in the ISA board of directors member linkage focus group in which colleagues and I had the opportunity of expressing our feedback on what we would like to see in the ISA a few years from now. All in all, a great conference and a great experience!

Juan Guerra, Senior Horticulturist,
City of San Antonio, Center City
Development Office



For me, the ISA International Conference and Trade Show was an extraordinary opportunity to connect and learn from arboriculture professionals on a grand scale. Meeting folks from all over the world and seeing and hearing about their research and practical experiences was invaluable to me. Especially helpful were the classes where circles were closed from research to on-the-ground everyday practices. My only regret is that I can't make every class!

Priscilla Files, Senior Arborist
& Executive Director,
Galveston Island Tree Conservancy



This year's conference has been the most enjoyable for me. I found myself to be more involved than in years past. I was able to sit in on a focus group to contribute my ideas and opinions, connect and network with peers from around the world, and take away some great new ideas and messages from the keynote speakers. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this great organization!

James Hubbard, Horticulturist,
City of San Antonio



Photo: Rebecca Johnson

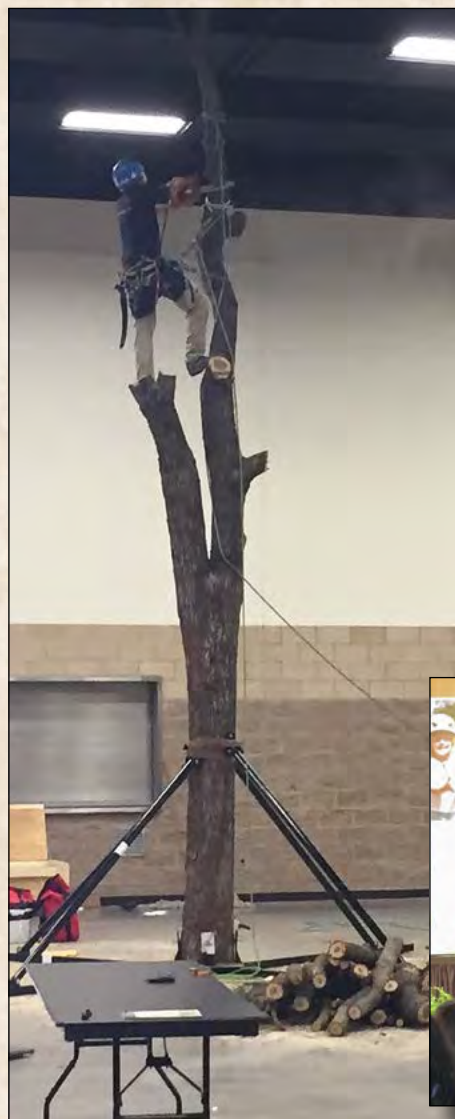


Photo: Paul Johnson



Photo: John Giedraitis

Photo: Lara Schuman



MORE COMMENTS

The ISA Conference in Fort Worth was a blast! Trying to absorb as much as possible, I attended a whopping 23 sessions; I don't even know how many CEUs that equates to yet! There was a range of topics and I gravitated to several that covered wildlife habitat, cat rescue, and migratory bird protection. I came away from all of them enlightened and resolved to ensure I do more within forest management to balance safety and wildlife on public property.

In addition, I strategically tried to visit every booth on the trade show floor. I was surprised by the sheer number of GIS, Lidar, and tree inventory software companies that exist. I yearningly lingered by several pieces of heavy machinery, thinking some of them might be amongst my tree management assets some day.

My stuff bag from the booths easily exceeds 30 lbs of reading and research materials (several copies for the Green Blue Product booklet akin to Deep Root Silva cell) for our watershed, engineers, and landscape architects to review. I know it required a few trees to create all those handouts but luckily Bartlett was giving away tree seedlings at the fun and entertaining ISA 2016 Pest ID Challenge.

The social networking amongst peers was fantastic and energizing. Amazing to see all the faces and nationalities representing our industry. On one day I'd befriend arborists from New Zealand, New Mexico, Michigan, Tennessee, Mexico, Oklahoma, and Alabama. There were so many amazing speakers, including several that I was already familiar with, which spoke volumes about the high standards our own Texas Tree Conference maintains.

I was also notified about being eligible for the BCMA and enjoyed being able to identify and speak to those who have obtained it to determine how to move forward into the future. I want to thank the Texas A&M Forest Service for providing me a scholarship to attend the International Tree Conference. It was an amazing experience.

Kelly Eby, Certified Arborist, Urban Forester | PARD, City of New Braunfels

COMMENTS Continued

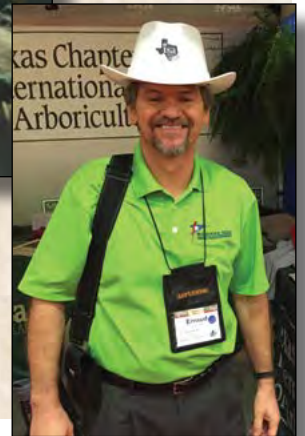
The International Conference was an amazing experience. There were so many great opportunities to learn and connect with arborists from around the world. Each of the educational sessions provided a wealth of information we could take with us as we return to our regular jobs. One of the most memorable moments was walking on to the trade show floor for the first time. There were so many huge pieces of equipment and new technologies to explore, that at first it was overwhelming. The one thing that impressed me the most about the conference was the atmosphere. Everyone seemed to be in good spirits and excited to be there.

Carolyn Meredith,
City of Sunset Valley



Photos on this page: John Giedraitis

For more photos from the ISA Conference in Fort Worth, visit
<http://ISATexas.com/gallery/2016-isa-annual-conference-fort-worth/>






























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Is the old adage about small container-grown trees catching up to larger trees once they're planted in the landscape **TRUE?**

by Lauren L. Garcia, Michael A. Arnold, Leonardo Lombardini, W. Todd Watson, Sean T. Carver, and Andrew R. King

Arborists, municipal foresters, landscapers, and homeowners transplant millions of container-grown trees each year. One question that often arises is “Does size really matter?” In order to answer this question, it becomes necessary to ask “How soon do you wish the trees to become established?”, “How long are you willing to wait to achieve the desired landscape effect?”, and of course “How much are you willing to pay for the trees and establishment care?”

Research is currently underway, thanks to the Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which is designed to answer how long it takes for different sizes of trees of the same genotype grown under the similar nursery conditions to become established when transplanted to the landscape. This research also tracked subsequent growth in the landscape to determine if initial growth differences associated with a range of container sizes persist in the future as trees continue to grow in the landscape. Our results should assist those planting container-grown trees in determining the likely time frames in which intensive post-transplant care will be required for different stock sizes, as well as when or if smaller size trees might catch up to larger ones in subsequent years after transplanting. It is only with the assistance of industry-generated funds that such long term research can be completed.

The size of trees which are transplanted to produce instant landscapes have increased in recent years, and even large box stores, for example Walmart, Lowes, and The Home Depot, which sell nursery stock have moved to offering larger size container-grown trees. These container-grown trees are often produced in light weight substrates with relatively low water holding capacities compared to that in the soil on balled-and-burlapped stock. This has raised the question of the length of time required to establish various size container-grown trees. Several studies have attempted to answer this question, but usually confounded the genetics and growing practices in the source nurseries used to obtain the different size trees with the responses of the transplanted trees. For instance, a comparison of the same container size trees from different nurseries may result in trees that already vary in size, nutritional status, water holding capacity of the substrates, pruning practices, and a myriad number of other factors that are specific to an individual nursery's production system rather than the characteristics associated with specific container sizes. In addition, if trees were of seedling origin or clonal materials were grafted

on seedling rootstocks, then when different size materials are obtained from different nurseries there is a high degree of likelihood that the genetic composition of each size class of container-grown trees in a study would not be the same. Provenance differences within a species and even tree-to-tree variation within open-pollinated families of seedlings can be substantial in regard to growth and physiological responses, even when grown under identical growing conditions. Hence, it would be difficult to determine if the observed differences in transplant responses were due to the size of the transplanted stock, or to the genetic and production differences associated with the sources of the different sizes of stock.

A potential solution to these questions would be to propagate stock from clonal rooted cuttings sequentially over a number of years and grow the stock in a common location using consistent substrates, containers, nutrient regimes, and other production practices timed to produce a range of container sizes of trees that are then transplanted to a common landscape location using an appropriate statistical design.

The goal of such a project would be to determine the effects of size on transplant establishment on representative taxa of container-grown trees, while holding other production, field establishment and genetic factors constant.

Clonal trees on their own roots, *Acer rubrum* var. *drummondii* ‘Maroon’ (Drummond red maple), *Vitex agnus-castus* (unnamed white flowering clone of chaste tree), and *Taxodium distichum* (a baldcypress test clone TX8DD38), were propagated sequentially over a period of three years. As trees reached saleable sizes in smaller containers they were repotted to successively larger containers until a range of sizes (#1, #3, #7, #25, and #45) of clonal materials grown in a common nursery ►



Figure 1. Former graduate research assistant, Lauren Garcia, assesses root growth using an air spade.

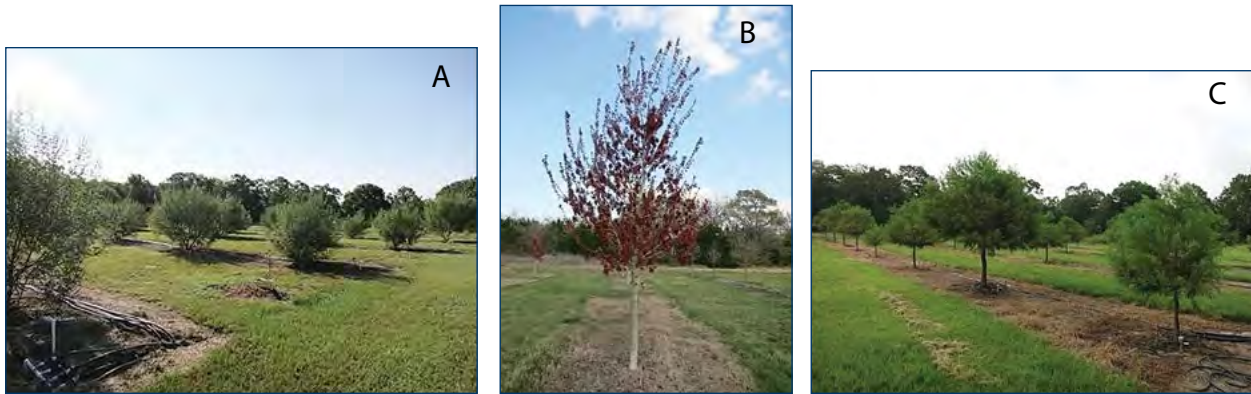


Figure 2. After three years in the field it is hard to distinguish the chaste trees from the different size containers (A), whereas differences were still apparent among the smallest and largest container sizes of Drummond red maple (B) and baldcypress (C).

◀ setting and with consistent inputs from one year's crop to the next were produced. After a sufficient size range of trees derived from these same clonal stocks and common growing conditions were produced, they were transplanted to in-ground field conditions to determine landscape establishment responses associated with the various container size materials. Trees were arranged in completely random designs for each of the three species in the field, and irrigation was provided to each size category of trees within a species via a separate irrigation system by monitoring soil moisture levels associated with each container size group independently. This permitted separation of different irrigation requirements among the various size classes of trees, within a species, from other size related factors affecting establishment. Factors such as growth parameters, photosynthetic activity, and water relations data were collected periodically during the first two growing seasons after transplant (2013, 2014) to help estimate the time required for each size class of materials to become fully established in the landscape (resume normal growth and water relations). During the landscape evaluation phase (2013-2017) we are determining if the supposition by some experts that smaller trees establish more quickly and thus experience less transplant shock and soon catch up to larger planted stock is true, or if this is a myth and larger size materials continue to maintain a size advantage for an extended time in the landscape. The primary study site is located on the Texas A&M University Horticulture Farm in College Station, Texas, with a replicate study for determining location impacts on general growth responses installed at Mississippi State University, in Starkville, Mississippi under the direction of Dr. Geoffrey Denny. Details of methodology and analysis are included in Garcia et al. [*Arbiculture and Urban Forestry* 42(3):170-180] in which we reported the differential responses between the two sites.

Physiological and root growth responses were measured for two growing seasons after transplant, and shoot growth was monitored for three growing seasons after transplant. Data collected were statistically analyzed to determine the rapidity of establishment, comparative growth responses among trees from the various container sizes, and monetary values were determined using the replacement method to estimate the economic

benefits of the use of the various container stock sizes. Rapidly establishing species such as *Vitex agnus-castus* were well established from all container sizes by the end of the first or beginning of the second growing season, and by the third growing season trees from all five container sizes for chaste tree were nearly equivalent in size in the landscape. Smaller #3 and #7 container sizes of *Taxodium distichum* and *Acer rubrum* var. *drummondii* were established in the first or second year, but those from larger containers did not resume vigorous growth until the third growing season. Although some differences were still apparent among the trees from the various container sizes by the third year, the #3 to #45 containers appeared to be converging on a common size in the landscape for both Drummond red maple and baldcypress. The smallest (#1) containers of baldcypress and Drummond red maple had poorer survival and resistance to environmental vagrancies and lagged behind the other container sizes. Fastest establishment and growth responses were obtained with #1 to #7 chaste trees and #3 to #7 Drummond red maples and baldcypress. Economic analysis using a replacement method found the greatest increase in monetary value of the various stock at two years after transplant to be associated with #3 and #7 container grown stock. This suggests substantial savings can be obtained financially by planting smaller stock if an instant effect is not required; however this must be balanced with the loss of larger planting stock benefits such as greater aesthetic value of larger trees, greater biomass present to withstand environmental anomalies, less potential for accidental or malicious mechanical damage, instant shade, and a potentially greater increase in property value. This project was conducted with participation by both graduate and undergraduate students and would not be possible without generous support from organizations such as the TREE Fund. ■

About the authors: At the Texas A&M University Department of Horticultural Sciences, College Station, Lauren L. Garcia is former Graduate Research Associate, Michael A. Arnold is Professor and Associate Head, Leonardo Lombardini is Professor, Sean T. Carver is former Graduate Research Associate, and Andrew R. King is Lecturer. W. Todd Watson is Adjunct Professor, Texas A&M University Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, College Station.

TREE RISK ASSESSMENT QUALIFICATION COURSES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) program provides an opportunity for professionals in the arboriculture industry to expand their knowledge through education and training in the fundamentals of tree risk assessment. This qualification promotes the safety of people and property by providing a standardized and systematic process for assessing tree risk. The results of a tree risk assessment can provide tree owners and risk managers with the information to make informed decisions to enhance tree benefits, health, and longevity.

The course includes Tree Biology and Mechanics, Tree Inspection and Assessment, Data Analysis and Risk Categorization, and Risk Reporting. The Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) Course prepares the participant to take the TRAQ assessment to become ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified.

The qualification consists of a 2-day educational course followed by a ½ day assessment that includes both a written and field component. It is required that you attend the course and successfully complete the assessment in order to receive this qualification.

For more information and a list of prerequisites to take this course, download the *Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Handbook* at <http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/resources/TRAQHandbook.pdf>



LOCATIONS AND DATES

Houston, TX – Monday, 31 October - Wednesday, 2 November 2016

Austin, TX – Thursday, 3 November - Saturday, 5 November 2016



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Urban forester John Warner wins award for helping put kids in touch with nature

The Lone Star Family Health Center has awarded Texas A&M Forest Service Urban District Forester John Warner an annual community award recognizing his advocacy of children in nature.

Warner received the 2016 Joseph Ewing, MD Award for his service to the underserved populations of Montgomery County and for his help creating a Nature Explore Classroom at the facility.

Lone Star Family Health Center health care providers actively prescribe nature prescriptions for clients to get outside and experience nature. The center also is the first health care facility in the nation to host a Nature Explore Classroom – a space that promotes the connection between nature and health.

“The concept of outdoor classrooms stems from a great deal of research looking at the role that the natural world plays in our health and happiness,” said LSFHC Medical Director, Dr. Daniel Porter. “Often, the current generation of kids is not experiencing the benefits of being outside. This classroom is meant to get kids and their parents to start exploring the natural world.”

Research shows that children’s social, psychological, academic and physical health is positively impacted when they have daily contact with nature. This research is supported by author Richard Louv in his book, *The Last Child in the Woods*.

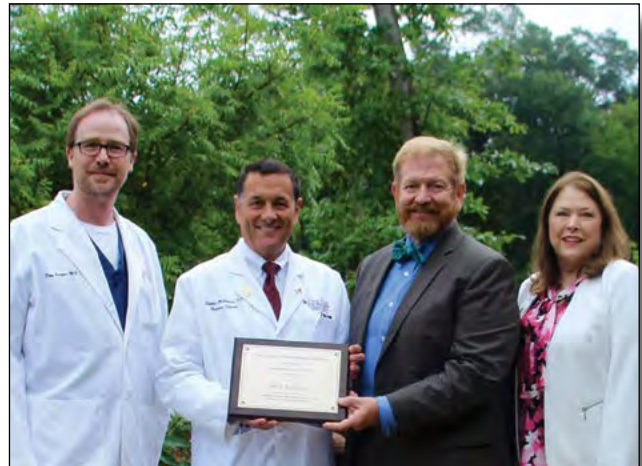
Louv cites that “proximity to, views of, and daily exposure to natural settings” support creativity and problem solving; enhance cognitive abilities; improve academic performance, nutrition, social relations and self-discipline; increase physical activity; and reduce stress and symptoms of attention deficit disorder in children.

“John Warner has been a superstar to our organization and to the community,” said Porter. “...linking our children to the outdoor world is becoming more and more important. John understands this and has shown his commitment to trying to change things.”

Warner has been with Texas A&M Forest Service for 27 years – having spent the last 14 in the Conroe office. It is in this community that he helps provide education and fosters environmental literacy focused on forestry as a sustainable, scientific solution to today’s issues and concerns – including that of children’s health.

The Lone Star Family Health Center Nature Explore outdoor classroom was made possible by the National Environmental

Educational Foundation in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Arbor Day Foundation, Dimensions Educational Research Foundation, Texas A&M Forest Service and other community partners. ■



John Warner (third from left) with Lone Star Family Health Center leaders (l to r) Dr. Daniel Porter, Medical Director; Dr. Stephen McKernan, CEO; and Marilyn Kasmiersky, Director of Professional and Government Relations.

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52nd Annual International Urban Forestry Conference & Trade Show November 15

The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) will hold its 52nd Annual International Urban Forestry Conference and Trade Show November 15 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Pre-conference workshops will be held on Monday, November 14, in the afternoon. SMA invites potential speakers to submit presentation/workshop proposals to the SMA Conference Committee.

Please visit www.urban-forestry.com for more info and to submit a proposal. Please direct questions about the call for presentations/workshops to Stephen Harris at 315-473-4330 x3014 or sharris@syrgov.net

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Paul Johnson named an ISA True Professional of Arboriculture™

Paul Johnson, Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator for the Texas A&M Forest Service, has been named a True Professional of Arboriculture™ by the ISA. He was recognized at the opening general session of the International Conference in Fort Worth.

The True Professional recognition program honors arborists and tree care professionals for their positive impact on the industry in and around their communities.

Johnson, a Board Certified Master Arborist, uses his background as a radio talk show host and newspaper columnist to present arboriculture content in a fun and engaging way. He has a passion for teaching others how to be an effective presenter and encourages his employees to speak to local groups in their neighborhoods.

"I have had the pleasure to serve with Paul Johnson on the ISA board of directors, and can attest to his skills as gifted speaker," says de Gourét Litchfield, ISA board president. "He has lectured at countless workshops and conferences, and has inspired and encouraged many ISA members, myself included. He is a true leader of the urban and community forest world on all levels."

Johnson is the creator and host of the TFS "Trees are Key" podcast (<http://treesarekey.com>), focusing on a tree species of

the week and tree-related events. The series now has more than 10,000 listeners per year from at least 20 different countries.

"I started out with topics related to why trees are key such as hiring a tree care professional, how to grow healthier trees, and proper tree planting," he says. "The podcast is all about helping people get the best information, using current research, best practices and industry standards, but sharing the information in a different manner."

Johnson thinks passion is a necessary characteristic of a True Professional. "There are people who say they don't have time to do this or that, but ultimately we all find time to do the things that we think are important," Johnson says. "We need more people who are going all out to do everything they can to make a difference because trees and the environment are key to our future."



Tom Boggus (l), director of Texas A&M Forest Service, presented the award to Paul Johnson.

Photo: Linda Moon

Johnson is one of eight individuals selected as a 2016 True Professional. ISA launched the True Professionals of Arboriculture recognition program in 2009 to increase public understanding of arboriculture and the professional skills of today's arborists. Recipients are from various backgrounds in the profession and hold industry credentials including certifications from ISA.

Individuals are selected by the ISA Awards Committee, a diverse group of experts in arboriculture including university professors, retired arborists, tree care company owners, trainers, and forestry managers. After selection, award recipients are approved by ISA's board of directors.

Profiles and case studies of the True Professionals will be featured on the ISA website at www.isa-arbor.com and highlighted in future ISA publications such as *Arborist News*. See a video at <https://youtu.be/fbfTv88X8fg> ■



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NEW ORANGE TREE FOR LESS TROPICAL PARTS OF TEXAS (AND ELSEWHERE)

*by Jeff W. Floyd, County Extension Agent-
Horticulture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension,
Ector and Midland Counties*

Growing citrus is fast becoming a sweet proposition for many Texans with the introduction of the Texas Superstar® Arctic Frost satsuma in 2015. Arctic Frost extends the planting zone of satsumas by promising to break out of the traditional subtropical confines of citrus.

The Texas Superstar® program promotes plants that are attractive, pest resistant and obtainable. Specialty plants earn a coveted spot on the list if they possess a particularly marketable characteristic.

Arctic Frost is a satsuma-mandarin hybrid developed by renowned plant breeder Dr. Ying Doon Moy and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension specialist Dr. Larry Stein. The tree made its Superstar® debut in June 2015. Citrus is well-known for poor cold tolerance; however Arctic Frost survived temperatures as low as 9 degrees during trials. This means Texans as far north as some areas within USDA zone 7b may soon enjoy fresh-squeezed orange juice right from their own landscape tree.

Although Arctic Frost is reasonably cold

tolerant, its long-term success may be improved by allowing its root system to develop in a container for the first couple of seasons in an area that receives at least eight hours of sun. When planting it in the landscape wait until after all danger of frost has past and provide plenty of water in well-drained soil through establishment. The small citrus may grow to about six feet tall in a container and twelve feet in the landscape.

Protection from north winds may offer additional insurance against cold injury. Even so, as a hybrid tree on its own roots, Arctic Frost has the potential to regrow true to form if frozen back to the ground. According to texassuperstar.com, the fruit is virtually devoid of seeds, “easy to peel,” and is both “sweet and tart.”

The Texas Superstar® program sprouted from collaborations between Bexar County Extension horticulturist Dr. Jerry Parsons and industry professionals around San Antonio during the 1980s. Early trials identified the Texas bluebonnet as a pilot plant worthy of the team’s ambitious goals in 1989. When the program formally adopted the Texas

Superstar® title in 1997, the celebrated wildflower and other promoted plants up until that time were crowned with the sought-after moniker.

Arctic Frost can be found at Texas Superstar® nurseries. For more information about Texas Superstar® plants and where to find them, go to texassuperstar.com or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office. ■

The late Dr. Ying Doon Moy, developer of the Arctic Frost satsuma.



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What's the Big IDEa?

Can you identify this Texas tree?



If you know this tree, look for the photo on our Facebook page and correctly identify it in the comment section under the photo, using the full scientific name and one or more common names. If you don't know it, check the page for an answer in a few days. The winner gets bragging rights and the chance to submit a tree to stump fellow arborists in the November issue.

July Winner



July's tree, arroyo sweetwood (*Myrospermum sousanum*), was identified by Sarah Galvan, arborist with the San Antonio River Authority, and Trudy Bahr, horticulturalist at San Antonio Parks & Recreation.