#### Volume 28, Number 2

Fall 2004



In the Shade

2

РТЕ

4

I

υ

S

4

ΤEX

S A

ш

I

LL.

0

2

ш

SLE

≥ ш

Z

ш

I

# **President's Message**

Here we go again, raised my hand to lead the group to another hopefully successful year. The conference last month was very well attended and received great reviews. Successful programs from this year's conference will be included in next years, due to the overwhelming positive response.

I will be meeting soon with TUFC to determine if an equable agreement can be met on a joint conference next year. There has been a desire for ISAT to have a conference on our own. After discussing the issue with many individuals at this year's conference the desire is to continue to bring the individuals of both groups together for an opportunity to network. My opinion and decision will be based on the input of ISAT members.

Our Workshop Chair has promised another blockbuster year of informative and educational workshops. We hope to duplicate an important topic at several different

locations throughout the state. These workshops are important to continue our Scholarship

and Research funding. Topics include different philosophies of tree fertilization, programs to provide direction on proper pruning through direct interaction with production personnel. This idea may be difficult to achieve this year with all the questions surrounding liability to the Chapter.

I hope that I can provide the leadership that you have entrusted. I will do my best to answer as many questions as I can and steer the Chapter in the direction

that fulfills the needs of the majority of Texas Chapter Members.



information is on page 2. Please do not ever hesitate to call or email with ideas, concerns, or suggestions regarding conference programs, workshop topics, or any other Chapter issues. "May The Forest Be With You"

### Tarantulas by Jim Dillard, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

When it comes to spiders, there's nothing itsy-bitsy about the Texas brown tarantula, *Aphonopelma hentzi*, found here in the Cross Timbers. It belongs to the Mygalomorph family of hairy spiders. At over 3 inches when fully grown, these large black and brown hairy spiders will get your attention. Little Miss Muffet would probably not have sat next to one of these for very long either.

Tarantulas spend most of their lives in underground

burrows, emerging only for eating or mating. Some individuals may live their entire lives within a few yards of their digs. They mature in 8-10 years and females may live to be 30. Mature tarantulas usually

Continued on page 3

#### Inside this issue:

Tarantulas!	1
ISAT History	4
Late Season Caterpillars	7
Utility Report	9
Tree Climbing Championship News	11
Workshops	Back

**Special points of interest:** 

- Job Openings!!!
- Statewide Award Recipients
- Committee Membership
- Society of American Foresters National Convention

### 2004-2005 Board of Directors--ISAT

#### **President**

Russell Peters Arborilogical Services 16 Steel Road Wylie, TX 75098 972-442-1524 FAX: 972-429-0012 rpeters@arborilogical.com

#### **Editor**

Courtney Blevins Texas Forest Service 4200 S. Frwy., Ste. 2200 Ft. Worth, TX 76115 817-926-8203 FAX: 817-871-5724 cblevins@tfs.tamu.edu

#### **President-Elect**

Pat Wentworth Austin Tree Specialists PO Box 50061 Austin, TX 78763 512-451-7363 FAX: 512-451-7362 pat-ats@texas.net

#### Past President

James Tuttle Tree Loving Care 7704 66th Street Lubbock, TX 79407 806-785-8733 FAX: 806-797-9484 jtuttle@treelovingcare.com

#### Vice President

Gene Gehring Urban Renewal, Inc. 2000 Winewood Ln. Arlington, TX 76013 817-307-0967 ggehring@mailcity.com

#### Exec. Director & ISA Liaison

Mike Walterscheidt ISAT 242 Monkey Road Elgin, TX 78621 512-587-7515 FAX: 512-281-3974 mbwalter@totalaccess.net

#### **Directors**

Renee Burke-Brown City of Plano PO Box 860358 Plano, TX 75068 972-941-7168 FAX: 972-941-7118 reneeb@gwmail.plano.gov

John Giedraitis Texas Forest Service 301 Tarrow, 3rd Floor College Station, TX 77840-7896 979-458-6650 FAX: 979-458-6655 jpg@tfs.tamu.edu Jim Houser Tree Clinic 6727 Bee Cave Rd. Austin, TX 78746 512-385-6604 FAX: 512-385-6612 Jim@treeclinic.com

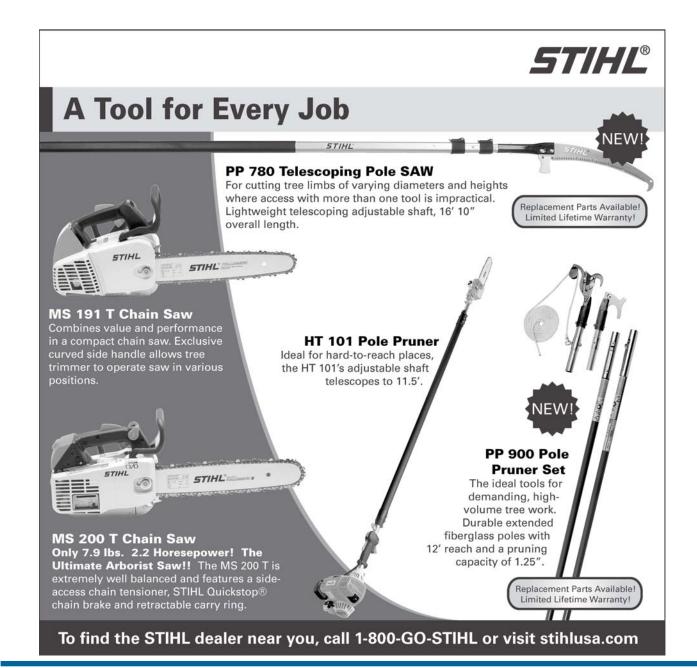
Oscar Mestas Texas Forest Service El Paso State Office Bldg. 401 E. Franklin El Paso, TX 79901 915-834-5610 omestas@tfs.tamu.edu Jack Hill Burditt Associates 113 Broken Bough Conroe, TX 77304 936-756-3041 FAX: 936-539-3240 jhill@burditt.com

Jordy Hagen 26132 Phillips Place San Antonio, TX 78620 888-873-6241 jordy4trees@satx.rr.com

### Tarantulas continued from page 1

molt their exoskeleton once a year. Foraging is usually at night when they prowl about short distances looking for beetles, grasshoppers, millipedes, other spiders or small rodents. Prey are bitten and flooded with predigesting enzymes and then sucked dry.

Adults are not without their enemies. The tarantula hawk (*Pepsis formosa*), a large 2-inch blue-black wasp with orange wings, is a tarantula's worst nightmare. They require a spider to serve as host for their larvae and nothing fits the bill better than a nice plump tarantula. Once a female tarantula hawk locates a tarantula's burrow, she'll go in and force the spider out into the open and the fight is on. Wandering males may also be attacked. The wasp usually wins and stings the spider with potent venom that immobilizes it within a few seconds. She'll then drag the spider to her underground burrow and deposit an egg on its abdomen. The grub will feed on the tarantula in the sealed burrow until it's consumed and a mature wasp develops. The sting of a tarantula hawk is extremely painful to people, so don't provoke one. Another enemy is the small headed fly of the family Acroceridae that lays its eggs on tarantulas. Like ticking time bombs, they eventually hatch and their maggots eat into the spider and devour it.



# ISAT History by Renee Burke-Brown

The following write-up comes from papers found in the chapter's history file. It tells of the beginnings of the ISA Texas Chapter. Further excerpts will be included in future newsletters.

#### History of the ISAT 1978-1986

By Bob Dewers, written in 1987

#### 1983

This year the chapter started with 211 members, 205 regular, 5 students and 1 life. President Younger greeted the chapter with the wish that the economy would improve quickly. As of January 1987, our economy has not yet improved.

The second arborists' workshop was held in College Station February 10-11. The theme was "Tree Failures and Misuse of Pesticides" and had an attendance of 68.

An executive committee was held March 21 in College Station to plan for the Fort Worth conference in June and to tour the Ramada Inn, the site of the 1984 conference.

The fifth annual chapter conference took place at the downtown Hilton Hotel in Fort Worth June 16-18. ISA proxy Les Toth greeted the conference attendees along with David Nivens, assistance park director in Fort Worth. Our out-ofstate program guest was Dr. Carl Whitcomb, professor of horticulture, Oklahoma State University.

This convention was highlighted by the first annual jamboree. The events included work climb, speed climb, throw line, crosscut speed cutting and chainsaw speed cutting. Demetrio Alpizar of Trees, Inc. was the overall winner and Able Cepeda of Blum was the second place finisher. Gene Prater, jamboree



chairman and Henry Painter, general chairman worked hard to make this first jamboree a success.

During the executive committee meeting June 16, the problem of funds for the ISA Research Trust arose. Members in the Texas Chapter had been dissatisfied with the few grants awarded to Texas universities relative to our size and monetary input. This dissension was to rise again in 1984 lead up to the "Santamour Compromise".

New officers for the 1983-1984 year elected at the Fort Worth conference were as follows:

President, Harold Wilder ; Vice-President, Mike Walterscheidt ; President-Elect, Sue Simpson; Secretary/treasurer, Eric Ploeger; Editor, Mike Walterscheidt; ISA Liaison, R. D. Younger.

#### Directors:

Ralph Flowers, Kevin Bassett, Charles Moore, A. J. Thibodeaux, Debra Livengood, Greg David & Henry Painter.

The 1985 Texas Chapter conference was scheduled for the Emerald Beach Holiday Inn in Corpus Christi. R. D. Younger received the support of the Texas Chapter in his bid to run for vice president of the ISA in 1984.



1984

President Harold Wilder reported in January that R. D. Younger had been nominated for the post of vice president of the ISA. This was our second candidate to run for international office. Del Kennedy had made the bid a few years earlier.

A planning meeting was held at the Ramada Inn in College Station February 10 to insure a successful convention in June at the same location.

An executive committee meeting was held April 20 at the Emerald Beach Holiday Inn in Corpus Christi. This location was selected because it was to be the site for the 1985 chapter convention. At this meeting proposed changes in the bylaws were made of a minor nature and Sue Simpson reported on progress of the certification committee. This effort was to get a certification program for arborists in Texas similar to the program sponsored by the Texas Association of Nurserymen. This proposed program was to meet stiff opposition for a variety of reasons and would be dormant for many years.

As of January 1, 1984, there were 239 members and unencumbered funds of \$6,013.88.

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Chapter convention was held at the Ramada Inn in College Station June 13-16.

A poolside "Ice Breaker" was held at 7:30 on Wednesday, July13 primarily because the jamboree was conducted the next day starting at 8 AM. Unfortunately, I am unable to find any record of winners of the jamboree.

The program was featured by a talk

"This Is Arboriculture" by Robert Mullane, president of the National Arborist Association. Other educational topics included Soils by Dr. Murray Milford, plant growth regulators by David Krause, wind and weather and trees on the Gulf Coast by Robert Attebury (HL&P), and Houston's urban forestry programs by Stan Pella (Houston Parks and Recreation).

The new slate of officers elected at the annual business meeting on June 15 was as follows:

President, Sue Simpson; Vice-President, Henry Painter; President-Elect, Mike Walterscheidt; Secretary/treasurer, Eric Ploeger; ISA Liaison, R. D. Younger. Directors:

Kevin Bassett, Charles Morre, Wilson Braden, A. J. Thibodeaux, Larry Schaapveld & Greg David. A major problem that had surfaced during the year concerned the ISA Research Trust. A proposal had been made to form a Texas Chapter Research Fund independent of the ISA. In fact, it was approved at the September 9, 1983 meeting in College Station. At Larry Schaapveld's suggestion, R. D. Younger moved that the Texas Chapter set up its own research fund. The motion was seconded by Charles Moore and passed. This brought on a response by Dr. Frank Santamour of the ISA known as the "Santamour Compromise". It was an effort to give chapters some independence, i.e., allowing them to ward grants within the chapter, while maintaining supervision over format of grant proposals. We shall read more of this later.

At the business meeting, a motion to adopt the certification program failed by a 29 to 24 vote. Fifteen exhibitors participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> annual conference in College Station.

Although no record of the College Station jamboree winners have been found, it was noted that Rick Husband of the Texas Chapter was the all-around champion of the ninth annual International Tree Climbing Jamboree held at the ISA conference August 19-21 in Quebec City, Quebec. Rick was an employee of Trees, Inc. of Houston.

Sue Simpson worked long and hard to get a certification program for arborists in Texas. It failed in a close vote at the 1984 conference. It may be a few years before it is reviewed, but the subject will come up again for future action.

### GARDENER/HORTICULTURIST FOR PRIVATE ESTATE

A Gardner / Horticulturist is being sought for a property in the North Texas area. Duties include the hands-on care of an extensive range of native ornamental woody and herbaceous plants, irrigation maintenance, turf management, arboriculture, greenhouse propagation, seasonal container displays and record keeping. Consideration will be given to other areas of knowledge such as: Xeriscapes, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Agronomy, Botany, Synthetic and Organic product usage/application. Other full-time gardeners are employed. This is a career opportunity requiring exemplary standards of gardening skill and degree and/or experienced-based horticultural knowledge combined with an awareness of the tradition of estate gardening and a knowledge of native plants. The work environment is one where the Gardener is expected to achieve and maintain aesthetic value of the highest level while paying close attention to detail in all phases of responsibility. Salary is commensurate with experience and demonstrated ability. An employer-sponsored benefit package is available. Interested applicants should respond with resume and salary history to Ms. Chris Young, 201 Main Street, Suite 3100, Fort Worth, TX 76012.



### Correction

In the previous issue an ad for **Mizell's Tree Service** had several errors occur in the text during data transfer at the printers. Most notably the miss-spelling of the company name in the heading and other errors in the crew supervisor and foreman job descriptions.

Our apologies to Mizell's Tree Service for these errors.





We are looking for tree care professionals who possess the drive for excellence and quality. We offer excellent pay and benefits, including paid holidays and vacations.

*Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:* 

<u>CREW SUPERVISOR</u>: Min. 4 yrs. exp. in tree care industry or related field. Possess excellent comm. skills in English / Spanish. Knowledge of tree care industry practices (climbing, fertilization, removals, etc). Work with / supervise foremen and crews to ensure job quality and safety. Certified Arborist or able to obtain certification within 1 year. Must be willing to assist in any of the positions if necessary. Valid Texas Driver's License a must.

**FOREMAN/LEAD CLIMBER:** Min. 4 yrs. climbing exp. Start jobs and maintain crew productivity, ensure quality and safety at all times. Drive company truck (valid Texas Driver's License a must). Exp. in tree care industry practices (climbing, fertilization, removals, AirSpade <sup>TM</sup>, etc.). Must be able to communicate in English / Spanish. Map-reading skills necessary. Tool maintenance and inventory control. Resolving situations as they arise and reporting them.

<u>APPRENTICE</u>: Will train in all aspects of the tree care profession to eventually fulfill a position of CREW SUPERVISOR.

# Late Season Caterpillars Not Usually Worth the Worry

By Michael Merchant, Urban Entomologist, Texas Cooperative Extension, Dallas

The past few weeks fall webworms, walnut caterpillars, oakworms and other caterpillars have been appearing in large numbers in many north Texas tree species. Having caterpillar infestations at this time of year is predictable; however, the exact species, locations, and extent of damage each year is not easy to forecast.

The most common of the fall caterpillars, at least in north central Texas, is the fall webworm. Fall webworm moths are white in the spring and usually white with black speckles in the fall. Despite their name, fall webworm moths can be active throughout the growing season. Fall is often the time when webs are most abundant. The more commonly infested trees include pecans, mulberries and sweetgum, though this caterpillar has been recorded from over 100 host species. Adult webworm moths lay their eggs in masses on leaf undersides. Upon hatching the caterpillars initially feed in groups, skeletonizing leaves, eventually forming their large, namesake webs.

Unlike their cousins the tent caterpillars, which spin webs in tree crotches, fall webworms cover the tips of branches with their silken homes as they feed and grow. Damage from a single egg mass may only encompass a cubic yard or so of canopy; however when egg laying is heavy, entire trees may be covered and defoliated. When feeding is completed, caterpillars drop from the tree and wander in search of protected sites in which to pupate. Frequently we hear reports at this time of year of hundreds of caterpillars crawling on driveways or the sides of houses. This behavior is typical of late season caterpillars looking for suitable hibernation sites in the soil, leaf litter or under house siding.

Today there are some very good and environmentally safe alternatives for control of fall feeding caterpillars. In addition to pruning or shaking caterpillars out of trees (a non-chemical control option for webworms on small ornamentals), several insecticides can control these defoliators with minimal risks to people, wildlife or beneficial insects. *Bacillus thuringiensis* is one insecticide that is effective against most Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) and is readily available through most garden and landscape maintenance suppliers. This product, usually

referred to as Bt, provides shortterm (1-2 days) but effective control of small caterpillars. Because of its target specificity, it is harmless to people and most other insects. Two newer insecticides, tebufenozide (Confirm®) and spinosad (Conserve®), also provide lowimpact control of caterpillars, but have the advantage of providing a longer residual (10-14 days). These products have broader spectrum action than Bt, but should still be safe for beneficials such as spiders, wasps, lady beetles, and other non-target insects.



Of course not all late season caterpillar infestations require treatment. In natural areas, intervention by man is almost never required. In high visibility sites, or locations where homeowners are concerned to maintain the aesthetic appearance of trees until leaf drop, treatments may be desired; however from a standpoint of tree health, insecticide treatments in September and October are rarely warranted. Some studies suggest that defoliation of 40% or less, from mid summer on, has little effect on deciduous tree health. Certainly there is little evidence to suggest that insecticide sprays in the last month of foliage produce any benefits in terms of tree vigor or health.

It's important to keep in mind that our north Texas trees put up with caterpillar damage long before men came along to worry about them. In most cases it's probably best to let the caterpillars munch in peace.





# Lifetime Achievement Award

The Texas Forest Service, Texas Urban Forestry Council, and Texas International Society of Arboriculture presented the 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award to Edwin H. Barron at the annual Texas Tree Conference, Sept. 17 in Round Rock.

"We are very pleased to recognize Ed's leadership role in Texas urban forestry with this prestigious award," said James Hull, state forester and director of the Texas Forest Service, who presented Barron with the award celebrating the accomplishments of those who are dedicated to help Texas build stronger communities by planting, maintaining and protecting trees. "Each award reflects exemplary efforts to protect and enhance the urban forest through creativity, leadership, individual dedication or innovative partnerships," said Hull.

Barron, former associate director of the Texas Forest Service who retired Aug. 31 after 39 years of service, won the award for his lifetime contributions to urban forestry. He initiated and directed the agency's Urban Forestry Program, working closely with agency urban foresters and the statewide program. He was instrumental in establishing the Texas Urban Forestry Council in 1987 and the Community Forestry Award Program in 1985. The Texas Forest Service's urban forestry programs develop and improve the capacity of communities to plant and care for trees in parks, along streets and in other urban settings.



# Watson First Texas Master Arborist

Todd Watson, Texas A&M University assistant professor of urban and community forestry, recently became the first board certified Master Arborist in Texas.

The master arborist program, administered through the International Society of Arboriculture, is the highest level of certification and recognizes those who have reached the pinnacle of their profession.

"I just got back from the Texas Tree Conference, and everyone's been asking me what's on the exam," said Watson. "The easiest way for me to describe it is: a Ph.D. can't pass it without 20 years experience, and a person in the field who's had 20 years experience can't pass it without being well read and knowledgeable."

The test has 150 scenario-based questions, according to Watson. Each scenario has a photograph and a description of tree, landscape or arboricultural activity.

He said the test is new, and he was in

the first group of people to take it in August.

"I may be the first (master arborist in Texas), but I won't be the last," Watson said. Often people are confused by the difference in an urban forester and an arborist, he said.

"Arborists are tree doctors and a Master Arborist is about as close as we come to a veterinarian for trees. An Urban Forester is an HMO: they manage the doctors and the money," Watson said. He said that an arborist tends to the health of individual trees, and an urban forester cares for stands of trees, often for a city or municipality.

Watson's current focus is to preserve and restore urban ecosystems through technology designed to keep urban forests healthy.

Watson was also recently elected to the board of directors of the society's Texas chapter as an at-large member.

Watson earned a bachelor of science degree in horticulture and a doctorate in

plant pathology from Texas A&M University.

For more information about arborists, go to www.treesaregood.com, or for more about the BCMA program, <u>http://www.isa-</u> arbor.com/certification/boardCertified.



# Dr. Appel Texas Arborist of the Year

The Texas Forest Service, Texas Urban Forestry Council, and Texas International Society of Arboriculture presented the 2004 Outstanding Professional of the Year and Texas Arborist of the Year awards to David N. Appel of College Station at the annual Texas Tree Conference, Sept. 17 in Round Rock.

"These awards recognize the best of urban and community forestry in Texas," said James Hull, state forester and director of the Texas Forest Service. The awards celebrate the accomplishments of those who are dedicated to help Texas build stronger communities by planting, maintaining and protecting trees..

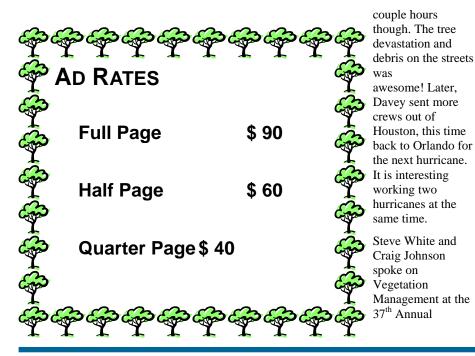
Appel was recognized for his pioneering efforts in oak tree mortality, leading to a continuous study of the diagnosis, epidemiology and control of oak wilt in central Texas. Appel is a professor and associate department head in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He is also an adjunct professor in the Forest Science Department. The Texas Forest Service's urban forestry programs develop and improve the capacity of communities to plant and care for trees in parks, along streets and in other urban settings.



# **Utility Report**

**Per <u>Steve White</u>**, **Davey Tree:** The TVMA Annual Conference was in San Antonio at the Riverwalk Holiday Inn October 11 - 13. (TVMA.net) David Wall became the new President for 2005 and had developed a great program as the Conference Chair. Was a great opportunity for networking and Pesticide Applicator/ISA Certified Arborist CEU's.

Davey sent crews to Orlando and Tampa in September, and as they were traveling home they were called back to help out in Pensacola. They only had to backtrack a



Transmission & Substation Design & Operation Symposium in Arlington in September. Our industry is buzzing with fallout from the massive outage a year ago in the Northeast. Everyone is studying ways to avoid such a thing in our part of the country and talking about possible regulations on Veg Mgmt and related maintenance programs.

#### From <u>Ron Britt, CenterPoint Energy</u>:

Thank goodness we don't live in Florida or the Southeast USA during 2004! CenterPoint Energy (CNP) & other Texas utilities have dodged the hurricane bullets so far. Two sizeable sets of CNP linemen with support personnel have made the trek to Florida. All four CNP line clearance contractors - ABC, Asplundh, Davey, and Trees, Inc. - have sent about 65 tree crews combined to assist indefinitely. Though the damage is in the east, it will also affect business here for the remainder of the year. Nevertheless, feedback of the help received has been positive, though the work conditions have been extreme with the devastation.

CNP recently produced a new door

# **Utility Report Continued**

booklet regarding its trimming practices to be included with the customer notification door card left at each residence when routine maintenance is done. If anyone would like a copy, please e-mail Ron Britt at

"Ron.Britt@CenterPointEnergy.com" (713-945-4731) and include a mailing address.

#### Per James Koenig, City Public

Service San Antonio- CPS also sent both line and tree crews to Georgia and Florida. At the peak of activity, Asplundh Tree responded with over 4000 tree workers, in addition to an unknown number of other tree company personnel. This is an amazing feat considering all the logistics involved and the lack of functional

hotel/fuel/food/communications facilities available.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Energy Commission (FERC) has submitted the final report on utility vegetation management to Congress in the wake of the August 2003 blackout. The report, "Utility Vegetation Management and Bulk Electric Reliability Report from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission," is available on the FERC website:

http://www.ferc.gov/industries/electri c/indus act/reliability/veg-mgmt-rptfinal.pdf. Highlights of the final report to Congress include:

- The US Congress should enact legislation to make reliability standards mandatory and enforceable under federal oversight;
- Effective transmission vegetation management requires clear, unambiguous, enforceable standards that adequately describe actions necessary by each responsible party;
- State and federal regulators need to continue to coordinate

jurisdictional issues so as to not impede effective vegetation management;

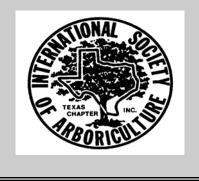
- State and federal regulators should allow reasonable recovery for the costs of vegetation management;
- While permitting and environmental requirements properly protect public lands, the procedures may be inconsistent and time-consuming and have potential to hinder effective vegetation management;
- Federal, state and local land managers should develop "rush" procedures and exemptions to allow utilities to correct "danger" trees that threaten transmission lines;
- Five-year transmission vegetation management cycles should be shortened and costeffectiveness of more aggressive practices should be investigated;
- Transmission owners should fully exercise their easement rights for vegetation management and better plan and manage the permitting processes;
- Variances in vegetation management practices may be resolved in the North American Electric Reliability Council standards development process, but if not, the industry/states/stakeholders may be convened to address issues;
- State regulators and the utility industry should work through various groups to help state and local officials better understand and address transmission vegetation management issues. This topic will continue to appear on the legislative and regulatory landscapes during the foreseeable future.

### CONSIDER A COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

The strength of the Texas Chapter of ISA depends on the willingness of members to get involved. There are many areas that a person can serve their fellow arborists. Putting on the Texas Tree Climbing Championship takes 30+ volunteers. Rene' has done a wonderful job of putting together a CD of our history, but it will take more volunteer hours to maintain the information. Putting on workshops, and getting out information about those workshops is an ongoing need.

There are 12 committees that need volunteers willing to serve others. The board forms other committees as needed and the president appoints people to serve on those committees. If you have an interest in serving in these areas, contact Russ Peters or the committee chair.

Past-President chairs the nominating committee, which puts together a slate of nominees for positions leadership of the organization. If you have an interest in serving in this area, please contact James Tuttle. Contact information is inside the front cover of this newsletter.



# Tree Climbing Championship News by Guy LeBlanc

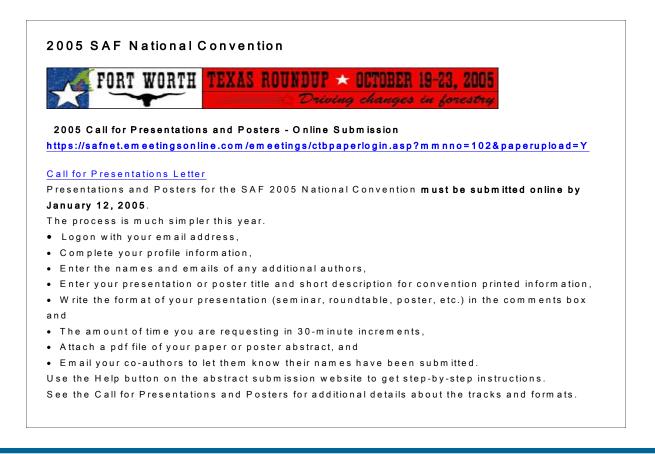
The 2004 International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) was held this August in Pittsburgh, PA. The Texas representative was Miguel Pastenez, an employee of Arborilogical Services of Wylie. Miguel's travel expenses were paid for by our chapter's main event sponsor, Stihl, and their Texas dealer, Blue Mountain. Stihl and Bandit Industries, and their local dealer Poston Equipment Sales, have been great supporters of our championship. Please let them know you appreciate this by buying product from them whenever you have a choice.

Meanwhile, back in Pittsburgh, we had beautiful weather and a great location, near the National Aviary. Pittsburgh was a surprisingly fun and attractive town, with lots of awesome architecture, and plenty of nightlife.

Berndt "Beddes" Strasser of Germany won his fourth straight world title (his fifth overall). Not all of the Masters judges saw it this way however, as Strasser edged out Dan Kraus of Seattle by less than one point. As one of the Masters judges this year, I was lucky enough to have a ringside seat for this close matchup. Also judging from Texas this year was our own Kevin Bassett, head judge at Footlock. Kevin also heads up the "Head to Head" Footlock competition, which is not counted towards the ITCC total points, but is "just for show". And money. Kev was kind enough to ask me to run a stop watch for this event (on Sunday morning, hungover, with about four hours sleep thanks, Kev). Fortunately, times were also recorded electronically.

We have a new world record, at the new height of 50 feet, of 14.34 seconds, set by Frank Chipps of the Prairie chapter. Mark Chisom still holds the record for competition, taking first in foot lock again this year. Unfortunately, Mark did not win his third World title this year, coming in third overall. Miguel did not have as good a day as he did in Fort Worth, finishing in the bottom fifth of the pack. This should give those wondering an indication of what it takes to do well at International, as Miguel is one of the best climbers in Texas. I encourage all comers to compete next year, as I would like to see our chapter put a contestant in the Masters round. Show this old man what you got!

Speaking of our local competition, we are about to begin planning for 2005. We have tentatively chosen Austin as our site, but this is still undetermined. Anyone in the Austin area who has recommmendations for a site in Austin, please call me. If you have volunteered in the past, I'll be calling you. If you have not, please call me. This is absolutely one of the most fun things our chapter does, and everyone who participates really enjoys it. Guy LeBlanc -512-301-8700



PRSRT STD U.S. Postage PAID DALLAS, TX Permit No. 1199

#### THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

4200 S. Frwy., Ste. 2200 Ft. Worth, TX 76115

Phone: 817-926-8203 Fax: 817-871-5724 Email: cblevins@tfs.tamu.edu



### Workshops by Gene Gehring

As of the printing of this newsletter, we have not made any firm plans for upcoming workshops. We would like to again hold one workshop held in three or four locations around the state in February or March. We would also like to hold an advanced workshop in May or June similar to those held previously on "Roots" and "Oak Wilt".

For February or March, we are considering a workshop on creating fire-safe zones around homes. Areas prone to wildfires are rapidly being developed. This has created a new set of concerns for homeowners living in these areas, as well as new opportunities for arborists. This course is designed to give you the tools to capitalize on this new market. This six-hour workshop would address creating fire-safe zones around homes through tree care and removal. If you would like to receive free registration, consider volunteering. We need assistance to find suitable locations at reasonable rates. This is an excellent opportunity to bring a workshop to your area or provide a client with business. We would also like to hear your suggestions about workshop speakers and topics. Please contact me either by e-mail <u>ggehring@mailcity.com</u> or phone, (817)307-0967.

