



In the Shade

President's Message

Every year about this time, the new president writes his first article for the ISAT Newsletter. Predictably enough, the letter is full of excitement with the potential of the coming year. Well... this year is no different, except that we perhaps have the most ambitious schedule coming up that ISAT has *ever* seen.

The Board of Directors met early in November in Elgin to get off to a quick start. The Workshop (Education) Committee has already had two extended conference calls to get the workshops up and running for 2006. The Program Committee is already fleshing out the

program for the convention.

ISAT this next year will be partnering with TFS to develop a "Certified Oak Wilt Specialist" program. Attendees successfully completing a test at the end of the 2 day workshop will be given the certification of "Oak Wilt Specialist" which will put them on TFS lists of recommended vendors given to the public to treat oak wilt. Only Certified Arborists will be allowed to attend. (Not certified yet? See

test schedule elsewhere in this newsletter.) Hopefully, you'll hear more about this program in the next newsletter.

The theme for the 2006 Convention's is "What Works." We will be calling on veterans of the tree industry in Texas to discuss what they do on a daily basis to take care of trees in Texas. You will be hearing from folks with 20 years or more experience in arboriculture on how they diagnose tree problems, *continued on page 2*



ISA Texas Chapter is Growing

The Texas Chapter of the ISA has grown now to over 630 members. As more and more folks become certified, they are recognizing the advantage of being members of both ISA and ISAT. If you are an ISA member but not a Texas Chapter member,

join today. The advantages are great and the price is small – about 10 cents a day to be a Texas Chapter member.

Welcome to new members:

Mark Carr, Pittsburg
Christopher Cole, Sachse

Teri Gregory, North Richland Hills
Andrew Hill, Lubbock
Cecelia Oliver, Ft. Worth,
Jeffrey Parker, Bryan
Jimmy Whisenhunt, Granbury

Glad to have you aboard.

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2005-2006

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President's Message *cont.*

Continued from page 1

what they do to fertilize, how they cable and brace trees, how they advertise, promote or otherwise market their business and much, much more. First hand experience, not some distant researcher doing work that doesn't really apply to everyday life in Texas.

We will also have an expanded version of the very popular "Case

Capsule" portion on the program. We'll need volunteers to offer their Case Capsule for a 10-minute talk.

There will be so much information offered that we will be putting it into **2 full days** of lectures with 13 CEU's available for Certified Arborists.

The Certification Test given at the conference this year will be offered on the Wednesday evening before the convention. By taking the test before

the convention, those who attend the convention (assuming they pass) the following 2 days can begin gathering their CEU's right away.

The information garnered from this year's convention will be information you can use right away in your own business. The location and date have already been set. Mark your calendars for September 28 and 29 for the convention to be held in Round Rock, Texas. See you there.



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Opportunity to Steer ISAT's Future

As Nomination Chairman this year, I am asking for volunteers to come forward to serve on the Board of Directors for The International Society of Arboriculture, Texas Chapter, for 2006-2007. You would take a 2 year commitment beginning at annual conference in the Fall 2006.

It is a great way to help direct the future of the chapter, network closely with small groups within the chapter at one time, and learn how we operate, function, and all the things we really do all year. It is a commitment in most cases of a minimum of 4 full days a year to travel at your or your companies/organizations expense for Board Meetings. These are usually in Austin, Waco, or a conference location that year. It will also include additional time throughout the year from time to time addressing special tasks, conference or workshop planning that the President or other Committee Chairs may request from you. You will find the time is very well spent and many of you may get quite a bit back from it depending on how much you put into it. It really is a lot of fun and satisfaction to volunteer in this capacity.

Please contact Russell N. Peters (contact info on 2nd page of newsletter) to throw your hat into the ring via email, fax, or phone. Please give this some serious thought and consideration. The conferences, workshops, tree climbing championships, and other educational and participatory events would NOT take place without people like you.

Personal Observations *by President Pat Wentworth*

With each newsletter, I will be sharing my own personal observations from working on and with trees for over 30 years now. It is not "hard science" or "pure research," just things I have noticed mostly from repetition and sometimes from a strong curiosity about what makes trees "tick."

I discussed pruning in my last installment and finished with the thought of "why do trees break?" The answer for the most part is poor pruning or lack of pruning.

Lack of Pruning

We all know that codominant stems can form narrow branch attachment angles, which eventually develop included bark and become a weak point in the tree. Failure to train trees when they are young can and often does lead to large branch failure as the tree matures. By not buying trees in the



nursery that have been improperly shaped (or topped) by the nurseryman, we can, one nurseryman at a time, change how trees are grown at the wholesale level.

Topped trees are bad. Simple statement, but if you look at some of the nursery stock being produced today, many of the small trees were at one time "topped" or pinched in an effort to produce a fuzzy ball of leaves on a spindly stick of a trunk. This always results in trees with multiple codominant stems emanating from a very

small area of the trunk.

Severe pruning to correct this condition is the young tree's only hope of surviving to be a strong, well-shaped old tree. When I see these trees planted in my clients' yards, I discuss the need to begin training these trees very early. It usually only takes a few minutes per tree to make a difference that will last a lifetime.

Codominant Stem Cuts vs. Flush Cuts

We all know that branch collar cuts are important. While I have seen an improvement in tree work over the last 30 years in Central Texas, I think that most folks still don't know how to make a codominant stem cut properly. While even Dr. Shigo admits that there is no clear or perfect area on the trunk or parent stem to make the codominant stem cut properly, too



many codominant stem cuts I see wind up being closer to flush cuts than correctly made codominant stem cuts. .

When one projects that onto the fact that as you get farther and farther out into the canopy of any tree, every branch becomes the equivalent of a codominant stem; you have a problem. Using pole saws, it's very easy to make codominant stem cuts near branch tips more of a flush cut rather than a correct made codominant stem cut. When the tree is young, these cuts don't seem to make much of a difference, but it's when trees grow old and those old cuts seal over that the "difference" becomes apparent.

When a "flush cut" is made, a crack frequently forms. The crack is really more of a delaminating of tissue rather than a true crack and it follows Wall 4 – all the new tissue that develops after the wound is made. (For more on what Wall 4 is, read Dr. Shigo's [New Tree Biology](#).)

When the branch is horizontal, the up and down movement of the branch in the wind causes that crack to elongate longitudinally up and

down the length of the limb. As this occurs, simple physics come into play. An area of tension develops on top of the limb (the tissue is being pulled apart) and cracks and a corresponding area of compression (the tissue is being compressed) forms on the bottom of the limb. Gravity, a 24 – 7 constant, will eventually pull that limb completely off the tree. This is the "phenomenon" of summer limb drop. I have seen it happen only once in 30 years and I have heard it happen twice. It's rather dramatic and sounds like a deer rifle going off.

Dr. Shigo once challenged me (over 20 years ago) to dissect branches I was seeing falling from trees in the middle of the summer with no apparent wind loading. For over a year, I longitudinally dissected all of the limbs we recovered that had "mysteriously" fallen from clients' trees. In 58 out of 60 dissections, I discovered old flush cuts or old wounds to have caused a longitudinal crack that in turn became the cause of the limb failure. Most of the wounds were 20 to 30 years old at that time and most had completely sealed over. From the ground, there would have been little to no visible sign of the impending failure except for the presence of sealed flush cuts. (Flush



cuts were once the industry standard over 30 years ago. Most of the mature trees you work on today probably have flush cuts hidden somewhere in their canopy.)

Small flush cuts on little or young trees – do they make a difference? Only time will tell. You should be extra careful when making cuts other than true branch collar cuts in trees. The legal profession is becoming more and more educated about how trees are put together and why trees fall apart. Don't let a lawsuit find you 20 years after the fact because you make bad pruning cuts.



Certification Tests for ISAT 2006

DAY/ DATE	CITY	LOCATION	PROCTOR	CAPACITY
1) Fri., February 3	San Angelo	3168 N. US-67	Eric Copeland	30
2) Sat., February 4	Humble	22306 Aldine Westfield Rd.	David Hintz	22
3) Fri., April 7	San Antonio	4514 Frank Bryant La.	James Koenig	35
4) Thurs., May 18	Austin	1600-B Smith Rd.	Pat Wentworth	20
5) TBA (Summer)	Ft. Worth	TBA	Melinda Adams	TBA
6) Thurs., August 24	Austin	1600-B Smith Rd.	Pat Wentworth	20
7) Wed., September 27	Round Rock	2600 La Frontera Blvd.	Pat Wentworth	45

Plant Health Care / Sales Position Dallas / Fort Worth Area

Highly reputable tree care company in the Dallas/Fort Worth area looking for the right person to help develop and implement our Plant Health Care program. The position would also include tree service sales, training of employees, and assisting in other management duties as needed.

Qualifications desired:

- Certified arborist
- Licensed applicator
- Bachelors degree in ornamental horticulture, urban forestry, or a related field
- Must be computer literate
- Must be highly knowledgeable of the trees common to northern Texas with 3 or more year of diagnostic and treatment experience

Pay/Benefits:

- Generous salary/commission structure
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- Health insurance benefits
- Ongoing education

Please send your resume to one of the following:

- Email address: alpinetreeservice@att.net
- Fax #: 817-595-1970
- Mailing address: Alpine Tree Service, Inc., PO Box 821863, North Richland Hills, TX 76182
- Or call 817-656-8733 for more information

Tree Service Crew Leader Dallas / Fort Worth Area

Highly reputable tree care company in the Dallas/Fort Worth area looking for experienced crew leader. Enjoy year round employment with top-of-the-line equipment and a team-spirited work environment.

The applicant must possess the following:

- A valid TX drivers license (prefer a CDL)
- A clean driving record
- Dependable transportation
- General knowledge of tree care and tree identification
- At least 3 years climbing experience w/rope and saddle
- The ability to follow and enforce proper safety procedures on all job from light trimming to large removals
- The ability to run a crew safely and proficiently without supervision
- Bilingual preferred

Benefits Include:

- Competitive wages
- Paid vacation
- Year-round employment
- Ongoing education

Alpine Tree Service is a non-smoking work environment.
A pre-employment drug test is required for qualified applicants.

Please send your resume to one of the following:

- Email address: alpinetreeservice@att.net
- Fax #: 817-595-1970
- Mailing address: Alpine Tree Service, Inc., PO Box 821863, North Richland Hills, TX 76182
- Or call 817-656-8733 for more information

Pre-Approved CEU Seminar & Meeting Sign-in Sheets

By Paula Deck

Starting January 2006, a new process will take effect for all CEU sign-in sheets at all pre-approved events. Standardized sign-in sheets will be used for registering attendance. Sign-in sheets will be available at the end of the meeting/session for you to sign up to receive your ISA CEUs. If you do not sign the sheet, you will NOT receive credit for the event.

Individual ISA CEU sign-in sheets will

no longer be available. When filling out your name and ISA certification number on the form, please be sure you print your name and number clearly. Unreadable names and certification numbers will NOT be considered for credit. If you don't remember your ISA certification number, DO NOT GUESS. If you guess the wrong

number, you will be forfeiting your credits and giving them to someone else. As long as we can read your name and you are still certified, CEUs will be awarded to you.

"To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees."
Theodore Roosevelt

If you have questions about this new process, please feel free to contact me or your ISA chapter liaison.

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Where are YOU on Your Career Ladder? (Workshop Comm. Update)

ISAT's Mission Statement is to ***"Improve the practice of professional arboriculture through science, education and public awareness."*** To better meet the educational needs of you, our members, your ISAT Board of Directors has requested that the Workshop Committee expand our educational services for 2006. To address the training needs of all the 'branches' of arboriculture represented in ISAT, the committee is using the ISA "Training and Career Pyramid" model. ISA has developed certifications for everyone on the arboriculture career ladder – from worker to master arborist. We are using this model of a career pyramid or ladder to organize our ISAT educational services for you. The Workshop Committee is drafting a plan for 2006 and beyond that divides educational services into Basic Training and Advanced Training.

Basic Training will be directed towards tree workers and will include a workshop at the Texas Tree Climbing Championship coordinated by Michelle McAfee. In addition, Paul Johnson and Oscar Mestas will be looking into bringing FISTA (Forest Industry Safety Training Alliance) and Dr. John Ball back to Texas to provide OSHA training similar to what was offered two years ago to some 450 tree workers around the state.

On the Advanced Training side, the Workshop Committee is organizing training for the Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist and Board Certified Master Arborist. For those wanting to become a Certified Arborist, ISAT will be sponsoring Dr. Todd Watson's very successful 'Arboriculture 101' course. In addition, there will be eight certification exams offered all over Texas in 2006. For more information on the exams, see the ISAT website or contact Pat Wentworth, our Certification Chair.

For those already Certified, we will be offering Advanced Oak Wilt training in cooperation with the Texas Forest Service. Gene Gehring is heading up this training planned for late spring. Also, Jim Carse is working to organize training for municipal foresters and city arborists with the goal of assisting these members in achieving their Certified Arborist - Municipal Specialist designation. For you city-types, look for a needs survey soon and a seminar this summer at Texas A&M.

Other Advanced Training will be offered in the newly conceived "Arboriculture Masters Series" at Texas A&M. Russell Peters and Todd Watson are working out the details of this course. This

year's class but it will be similar to the very successful Roots Seminars held at A&M a few years ago. The Workshop Committee is exploring the idea of coordinating these

"No shade tree? Blame not the sun but yourself."
Chinese proverb

Arboricultural Master Series classes so that they will help Certified Arborists become Board Certified Master Arborists.

As you can see, there is a lot going on in ISAT. Wherever you are on your career ladder, ISAT wants to help you succeed and achieve.

If you have any questions or suggestions or if you would like to volunteer to help others to reach their training goals, just give John Giedraitis a call at 979.458.6650.

ISAT Workshop Committee Members: Chair, John Giedraitis, Gene Ghering, Todd Watson, Jack Hill, Russell Peters.

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Don Gardner Newest Registered Consulting Arborist

The American Society of Consulting Arborists announces that Don Gardner, a certified arborist from Austin, Texas, has met all the requirements necessary to become a Registered Consulting Arborist (RCA).

RCA status is one of the highest and most prestigious achievements in the profession of arboriculture.

Don Gardner has been an arborist for more than 30 years. He has been a member of the International Society of Arboriculture for 25 years. He has been active in the Texas chapter of ISA all that time, most recently assisting the production of the Texas Tree Climbing Championship for the last five years. He is only the fourth active RCA in Texas.

He was owner of Austin Arborists, a tree-service business in Austin for 20 years before becoming a full-time consulting arborist in 1999.

The American Society of Consulting Arborists RCA process requires graduation from the week-long Consulting Academy and then fulfilling the requirements for registered status under rigorous report review standards.



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Cool Toys *by President Pat Wentworth*

Each issue we will present a new tool used in the industry in some way to make life a little easier. If you run across a new item and try it out, please submit it along with a comment about the product, how much it costs, and where someone can purchase the item.

This issue's "Cool Tool" award goes to the green light laser pointer. For years I have used red light lasers with minimal success to point out individual limbs and branches

to clients and employees. It would lone work well in low light conditions (early mornings, very shady back yards, and cloudy days.)

The advent of the new 5 mw green light laser has greatly changed all of that. Thirty times more visible than a red laser pointer, this thing is visible in broad daylight! With it, you can easily highlight a limb or a branch to show a client which branch you're discussing or to tell you crew how high or how far

back to cut low limbs over a drive or roof.

When they first came out, they were high - \$110.00 at Sherrill's (www.wtsheerrill.com). Today they have had to lower their price to compete with everyone else (now \$90.00.)

If you look hard enough on line, you can find it for even less.



*"Trees are the Earth's endless effort
to speak to the listening heavens."*

Rabindranath Tagore

Calling All ISAT Members *by Jack Hill*

This year ISAT is planning to expand educational services to its membership and beyond. As part of the expansion of services, members are being asked to participate as representatives or speakers for the ISAT to inform about our educational programs and membership throughout the state. There may also be an opportunity for setting up and manning an ISAT booth for selected conferences and meetings. Additionally, membership is asked to provide any green industry contacts you think would be good prospective clients for the program. Please contact Jack Hill at 936.756.3041 or by email at jhill@burditt.com if you would like to participate in soliciting for ISAT educational programs and memberships or have any contact information that may be useful.

Upcoming Seminars

Austin, Texas
April 25-26, 2006
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

A **Hazard Tree** workshop will teach you the careful management of tree defects to create a safer environment and reduce liability.

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Mangroves Save Lives *from LandscapeOnline.com*

Healthy mangrove forests helped save lives in the Asia tsunami disaster," a new report has said. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) compared the death toll from two villages in Sri Lanka that were hit by the devastating giant waves. Two people died in the settlement with dense mangrove and scrub forest, while up to 6,000 people died in the village without similar vegetation. Many forests in the past were felled to build prawn farms and tourist resorts. The IUCN said it showed that healthy ecosystems acted as natural barriers. IUCN Research has shown mangroves are able to absorb between 70-90% of the energy from a normal wave. There is, however, no reliable data on how the trees mitigate the

impact of a tsunami. Many people living in coastal areas now want to see their communities benefit from the apparent protection offered by mangrove forests. Coral reefs were also in the direct path of the tsunami. Fears for these ecosystems were allayed after initial surveys found that there had not been

widespread, long-term damage. But they did not escape unharmed. Debris and silt from the shore was washed out to sea and covered the reefs. Twelve months later, the IUCN has found that reefs which were in good shape before the waves struck are recovering much more quickly than degraded sites. Damaged coral has been slower to recover from the tsunami. Both mangrove forests and coral reefs found in coastal areas provide vital protection and breeding grounds for fish - a key source of income and nutrition for people in the region.

