



In the Shade

President's Message

The year is going by quickly. ISA Texas has already had two very successful workshops – the Advanced Rigging and Removal Workshop in Waco with Mark Chisholm was well attended with Mark giving a great program. Thanks again to Mark and the good folks at Blue Mountain Stihl for helping us put on the workshop at a low cost.

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) gave its first Oak Wilt Certification course in June in San Antonio. The 2-day event was sold out with 64 people attending. TFS is planning a second workshop soon to be held

in a different location. Watch the ISA Texas website for more information (www.isatexas.com.)

The annual conference is coming together as the well. Instead of a 1½ day conference we usually have, this year the conference will be 2 ½ days. The conference title is “What Works in Texas – the Voices of Experience.”

In the past we would have someone from outside the chapter talking about things that may or may not concern

Texas arborists. This year we will be having experienced Texas arborists sharing their methods of work as it pertains to their everyday life here in Texas. You won't want to miss this one. The conference will start Wednesday



afternoon with TFS giving a talk on wild Fires in Texas that will teach you how to minimize the danger of wild fires / forest fires

around your client's homes. This will be *continued on page 3*

Aging A Tree *by Carolyn Bush*

Have you ever looked at a huge, stately tree and found yourself making up stories about its being a little sprout when buffalo and Indians roamed our area, thinking about all the events it has

witnessed during its lifetime, and wondering how just how old it really is? Dallas County Master Gardener, Steve Houser (1998), certified arborist and owner of Arborological Services,

Inc., has found a method to determine a tree's approximate age without inflicting any damage to the tree by increment boring (boring a hole around a quarter of an inch in diameter to the *continued on page 10*

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Aging A Tree | 1 |
| Texas Tree Worker Tragedy | 4 |
| Personal Observations | 4 |
| Climbing Lines | 8 |
| Cool Tools | 9 |
| Arbor Day Presentation | 11 |
| Citizen Scientists Wanted | 11 |

Special points of interest:

- *President's Message*
- *TTCC Results*
- *Landscape Gardner Position*
- *Tree Service Crew Leader Position*
- *ISAT Contacts*

2005-2006

Board of Directors--ISAT

President

Pat Wentworth
Austin Tree Specialists
PO Box 50061
Austin, TX 78763
512-291-8844
FAX: 512-291-8555
pat-ats@texas.net

President-Elect

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

Vice President

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

Past President

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

Mary Ann Sullivan
John Deere Landscapes
544 S. Dallas Pkwy.
Prosper, TX 75078
972-346-3577
FAX: 972-346-3823
masull1998@aol.com

Jim Houser
Tree Clinic
6727 Bee Cave Rd.
Austin, TX 78746
512-385-6604
FAX: 512-385-6612
Jim@treeclinic.com

Jack Hill
Burditt Associates
113 Broken Bough
Conroe, TX 77304
936-756-3041
FAX: 936-539-3240
jhill@burditt.com

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

Oscar Mestas
Texas Forest Service
El Paso State Office Bldg.
401 E. Franklin
El Paso, TX 79901
915-834-5610
omestas@tfs.tamu.edu

Dr. Todd Watson
Texas A&M University
323 Forest Science Building
College Station, TX 77843-2135
979-458-1753
FAX: 979-845-6049
t-watson@tamu.edu

Jim Carse
Texas Forest Service
PO Box 15083
Austin, TX 78761-5083
512-451-2178
FAX: 512-451-6946
jcarse@tfs.tamu.edu

President's Message cont'd

followed by two full days of talks Thursday and Friday. The Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament is back again this year and will be held Thursday night. The annual conference will be held in Round Rock at the North Austin Marriott on La Fronterra Blvd. October 4,5, & 6. Sure to be well attended, you might want to reserve your hotel room now (before September 13 to get the group rate.)

Additionally, the Executive Committee is working on the Second National Oak Wilt Symposium (NOWS) to be held June 5, 6, 7, 2007 in Austin at the Austin Hilton. This 3-day event will be a must for anyone who works with oak wilt. The first symposium was held in Austin in June of 1992. In the 15 years that will have passed between

meetings, a great deal of new information has been learned about the disease. Speakers from all of the country (oak wilt is in more that 24 states) have been invited to attend. Since this program is going to be advertised nationally, we're expecting a sell-out crowd. Attendance will be limited so you will need to watch the ISAT web site and register early.

See you in October in Round Rock.



Treetop Tools for the Pros



PP 780 Telescoping Pole Saw
For cutting tree limbs of varying diameters and heights where access with more than one tool is impractical. Lightweight telescoping adjustable shaft, 16' 10" overall length.

Replacement Parts Available!
Limited Lifetime Warranty!



HT 101 Pole Pruner
Ideal for hard-to-reach places, the HT 101's adjustable shaft telescopes to 11.5'. Powerful 31.4 cc 4-MIX® engine.



PP 900 Pole Pruner Set
The ideal tools for demanding, high-volume tree work. Durable extended fiberglass poles with 12' reach and a pruning capacity of 1.25".

Replacement Parts Available!
Limited Lifetime Warranty!



NEW!
MS 200 Chain Saw
A rear handle version of "The ultimate arborist saw." Perfect for ground or bucket work. Features include a Quad Power™ engine, tool-less fuel and oil caps with retainers, and a carburetor preheat shutter for summer/winter operation.



NEW!
Only 6.6 lbs!
MS 192 T Chain Saw
NEW! Introducing the tough little brother of the MS 200 T, this saw delivers exceptional power and balance. This is STIHL's lightest gasoline powered chain saw ever, only 6.6 lbs. For in tree-use only by professionals.

To find the STIHL dealer near you, call 1-800-GO-STIHL or visit stihlusa.com

Tragedy Strikes Texas Tree Workers *by Guy LeBlanc*

Two Dallas area tree workers were severely injured in a car accident last month in which two young children were killed. Leoncio Carlos, of Arborilogical Services, and his cousin Willy Carlos of Matheny's Landscape and Tree Service, were traveling in New Mexico when the van they and some family members were in was involved in a collision with a tractor-trailer.

Although not all details are available at this time, the two spent several days in the ICU of a New Mexico hospital. Their injuries are severe although they are both expected to recover. The names of the children and their relation to the Carlos' is not being made public at this time.

Leoncio and Willy are regular participants in the Texas Tree Climbing Championship. Leoncio has placed



second overall five times and won the championship in 2002. Willy is also a competitor to be reckoned with, frequently placing in the preliminary events.

This tragedy is resulting in significant financial impact for the Carlos family. There have already been funeral expenses, and there will be extensive loss of work for these two great climbers. **I am asking ISA members to please make a donation to assist them during this difficult time.** A bank account has been set up to which donations can be made directly, and checks can also be sent to one of their

family members at Arborilogical. Rather than publish these names and number, I am asking anyone interested to please contact me at 512-633-5245, or Steve Barrett at Arborilogical Services, 972-442-1424, ext. 224.

Events like this strengthen my belief that we need an organization--wide resource to help each other deal with such things. I would like to know how much support there is among us for creating a fund from a portion of our International dues, and corporate donations, that could be used to assist members in need due to illness or injury. There are over 17,000 international ISA members. Ten dollars a year could create a sizeable fund for such purposes. Let me and your international officers know what you think.

Personal Observations *by Pat Wentworth*

It is not "hard science" or "pure research," just things I have noticed mostly from observation and repetition.....

I started a similar article this way last December. On May 4, 2006, Austin was visited by a storm which we are still cleaning up after more than 2 months later. This event would have been a great opportunity to contribute to the National Tree Failure Database if only there was enough time in the day to do so. The one thing I noticed with some consistency was the trees most likely to have failed were also very poorly pruned.

I know this can sound like a broken record, but this is also a chance for

you to look over your client's trees a little closer and sell additional work to prevent catastrophic branch and or trunk failures that result from high winds and bad pruning.

On May 4, west Austin had a storm which had winds clocked between 68 and 74 miles per hour - essentially a hurricane with trees carrying a full load of new growth. An equal opportunity storm, live oaks, post oaks, pecans, hackberry, chinaberry, Chinese tallow, cedar elms, etc. all received varying degrees of damage. Cyclonic winds twisted off beautiful, clear wood from a few oaks and elms and there was nothing anyone could have done about these few trees. The cause of the failures that ran consistently across most species was poor pruning in the

trees' past.

Tree and/or branch failures most often seen were in over-pruned trees - trees that were pruned to resemble native live oaks with stripped interior crowns. Tree care companies, which sell "crown cleaning that includes the removal of interior foliage to "reduce the wind sail" actually caused the trees to break because the "sail" and the weight is left on the branch tips. With interior foliage which would naturally buffer and reduce the branch sway gone, the trees broke by the thousands.

Old (and some new) flush cuts gave way to longitudinal cracks, which formed on horizontal limbs. Inverted forks which could have been saved if



Overpruned cedar elms



Multi-stemmed, over pruned elm with included bark in forks

someone had sold cabling (or properly pruned these trees earlier in their life) also were the cause of many limb and trunk failures.

Today, Austin is left with even more crown reduction pruning to be sold than ever before. By reducing the length of the branches by coming back to an interior fork, you can

force new growth to redevelop back towards the center of the over-pruned tree. You will also reduce the likelihood of additional storm damage while making the tree stronger by increasing branch taper.

It is not an easy sell, but something the industry needs to look at it we are going to continue to hold our selves up

as tree experts. For too many years, the industry has sold “thinning” as proper pruning. Thinning today means reducing the amount of foliage on the *end* on the branch, not the interior of the canopy. Two thirds of the crown should be in the lower half of the tree’s overall

continued on page 6

Experience the Nelson standard of performance

- Vegetation management professionals since 1919
- Safety Programs designed to enhance productivity and protect our employees, customers and the public
- Industry leader in field and office technologies
- The “right” equipment to fit the job and the maintenance program to keep it running
- Nelson... A cut above the competition

Nelson
 TREE SERVICE, INC.

Contact the following Nelson representative to discuss your Vegetation Management needs

**Randy Gray at
 1-985-419-1116**

Personal Observations cont'd

height. Too often, more than 2/3 of the crown (and frequently all of the crown) is located in the top 1/3 of the tree.

If you haven't visited the ANSI Cabling and Bracing Standards lately, perhaps you should look it over once again. Cabling of weak, or inverted forks is something very frequently missed?

Too often, arborists overlook the effects of gravity. Working 24-7 in a straight downward vector, gravity will break even the strongest oak. Even wide-angled, "u-shaped" forks will break if the trees have been over pruned to the extent that the crown only exists in the upper 1/3 of the tree. Also realize that multi-trunked trees can't develop roots opposite

their lean often because the adjacent trunks prevent roots from forming where they are needed most.

If you will look for these potential failure points in trees, you can prevent or limit storm damage to your client's trees. Prevention will allow you to work on these trees for the rest of your career. Failure to do so may leave you removing the trees after a storm – something you can only do once.



Inverted fork in cedar elm

TTCC Results

The following are the results of the Texas Tree Climbing Championship held in Waco on May 19 – 20.

Throwline

- 1st Place Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd Place Nicholas Martinez
- 3rd Place Keith Brown

Footlock

- 1st Place Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd Place Abram Zies
- 3rd Place Leoncio Carlos

Work Climb

- 1st Place Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd Place Abram Zies
- 3rd Place David Ruiz

Belayed Speed Climb

- 1st Place Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd Place Guy LeBlanc
- 3rd Place James Prichard

Aerial Rescue

- 1st Place Guy LeBlanc
- 2nd Place (tie) Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd Place (tie) James Prichard

Masters Challenge

- 1st Place Miguel Pastenes
- 2nd Place Abram Zies
- 3rd Place James Prichard

As you can see by the results, Miguel is on his way to Minneapolis to represent Texas at the International competition. Best of luck to you, Miguel.

*"He who plants a tree
plants hope."
Lucy Larcom*

LANDSCAPE GARDENER

For private estate. A landscape gardener is sought for a garden 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, greenhouse propagation, seasonal container displays. All work is supervised by the Horticulturist. A team spirit and the ability to work along side other full-time gardeners or contract labor persons is desired. This is a career opportunity requiring patience, attention to detail, a demonstrated desire to serve the daily needs and preferences of the estate owners, and the ability to follow written or oral instructions. 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



SUPERSONIC
Air **KNIFE** INC.

- AREA DECOMPACTION
- BARE ROOT TRANSPLANTING
- DIG PLANTING HOLES
- GRADE REMEDIATION
- GROUNDING ROD INSTALLATION
- INCREASE SOIL ORGANICS
- INSTALL IRRIGATION
- ROOT PRUNING
- UTILITY INSTALLATION
- UTILITY LOCATING
- VERTICAL MULCHING
- RADIAL TRENCHING
- REMEDIATE CONST. DAMAGE
- ROOT CROWN EXC.
- ROOT DELINEATION

859-252-2529
WWW.DLARBORIST.COM

412-486-2270
WWW.SUPERSONICAIRKNIFE.COM

| AD RATES | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Full Page | \$ 90 |
| Half Page | \$ 60 |
| Quarter Page | \$ 40 |
| Business Card | \$ 20 |

Climbing Lines *by Guy LeBlanc, Certified Arborist*

Pruning and Oak Wilt – Part II: Polarity

The usual focus of *Climbing Lines* will primarily be climbing techniques and safety. Last issue however, I focused on the relationship between pruning and oak wilt because of its timeliness. I concluded Part One by stating that as many cuts as possibly should be made within arm's reach, minimizing pole saw use, and that proper positioning is critical to properly made pole saw cuts. In this article I will focus on proper pole saw use.

I rarely use a pole saw for pruning, even ½ inch pruning (formerly referred to as “Class One”), unless I am pruning a red oak species in which I have lots of very small dead branches to remove. This technique really doesn't work on most other species, though. I find that small dead branches detach more cleanly from red oaks than any other tree, often leaving a small “socket” where the collar of new tissue is almost pinching off the dead branch. I don't need to be concerned about the angle of a cut because I'm not making one; I'm just hooking the branch (often up to ¾ of an inch in diameter) and snapping it off cleanly at the collar. Live tissue is rarely exposed, so painting is not important, since oak wilt apparently can't move through dead tissue. Every once in a while, though, the new bark on the inside edge of the “socket” will get torn by the departing branch with this technique, so if you believe in painting for oak wilt (see Part One) keep an eye out for that.

If you do need to paint something you've cut beyond arm's reach, you can use what I call a “pole painter”. This is simply something that holds and can trigger a can of paint (again, see Part One) from the end of a pole. Now I know what you're thinking: “Hey, I invented that!” Seems like every time this subject comes up, I meet yet another inventor of this highly technical device. Well, they're for sale in the trade journals now, so all you inventors out there, call your lawyers!

Another instance in which I may do a lot of pole saw work is if I am removing lots of ball moss (*Tillandsia recurvata*). Contrary to the theory that ball moss thrives primarily in the shady interior of tree canopies, thousands of trees in central and south Texas sport bountiful colonies of ball moss right out to their very branch tips. I'll save discussion of how this plant is detrimental to trees for another issue, but the main purpose of removing ball moss should be to maximize the tree's health. If you are removing more than 10% of the tree's foliage in the process, you are doing the tree a great disservice. Put away your ladder and read on.

You can always tell an unskilled tree service by how many live branches they remove when doing a “ball moss job”. But by skillfully positioning oneself and deftly using the pole saw, you can remove nearly every clump of this plant without resorting to cutting the whole branch off. I use a blade I have specially modified for the purpose, with about two inches cut off the tip and a few notches cut into the newly created end (yeah, I know, you invented that, too). I find that if I put this tip, or the hook on the saw head, against the clump of moss and push it outward, it comes off easier, and I don't scrape up the bark. A small branch is also far less likely to break this way than if you hook the moss with the saw teeth and pull it in towards you.

This takes a lot more time (I have spent more than a full day in many a ball moss infested live oak), but the end result is completely superior. Remember, if you're going to do something...

When making pruning cuts with pole saws, it is more difficult to make an ideal branch collar cut than with a hand saw. Since it is six to ten feet long (or maybe thirty foot for those true professionals), you obviously cannot control it as well. This length also makes it harder to hold

the pole far enough away from you to make the correct cutting angle; this makes flush cuts more likely. This is especially true if you are trying to cut a branch from the underside of a branch you are on. The best way to deal with this is by planning your work course. I will remove these types of branches while I am on the adjacent branch (see photos). This often gives me a perfect angle and it is much easier. Of course, this is only possible when the shape of the tree allows it. I use this technique often when making weight reduction cuts pruning on the tips of trees like pecan, ash and elm. As with a hand saw, if you are cutting from the “outside” of the branch towards the inside, you run the risk of



“overcutting”, and damaging the parent stem. Working from an adjacent branch



also allows you to make more of your cuts with a pole from the “inside” out.

Regarding pole saw safety,

Climbing Lines *cont'd*

there are a couple of critical points to remember. First and foremost, watch out for electrical lines. I thought aluminum poles had pretty much been relegated to home owner status, but I've recently noticed that some new telescoping poles are on the professional market, and they are indeed aluminum. I tried one of these babies out and it was impressive (the pole is oval rather than round, which it gives it more rigidity in one direction) but I think it's awfully risky, especially for intensely urban areas. But remember that even a wooden or fiberglass pole will conduct electricity if it is wet or excessively dirty.

Another important safety aspect of pole saws is to hang them with the

blade facing away from you, with the head below your waist. This is not always possible, but if you consistently violate this rule, sooner or later you will pay the price. Ever had a pole saw come whistling past your ear? Awesome, dude!

In the next column, we'll leave the pole saws behind and talk about how to minimize their use via proper positioning.

The author owns and operates Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin, TX and has been in the tree care business for 30 years.



*"The cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful, and the ennobling in man."
J. Sterling Morton*

Cool Tools *by Pat Wentworth*

Leatherman® products are familiar to most folks. It's a good bet that many of you have now or at one time have had a Leatherman® tool. Today, Leatherman® has come out with a new tool for the gardener/ pruner/ and or hunter.

They are deemed Leatherman® hybrids and they come in two styles – one is called the “Gardener’s Pruner®” and the other is called the “Hunter’s Pruner®.”

The Gardener’s Pruner® has a bypass pruning shear built into the handle along with the usual knife blade, bottle opener, screwdriver, plus a sprinkler tool and grafting tool (bark lifter.)

The Hunter Pruner® comes with all of the above but adds a “choke tool” for adjusting the end of your shotgun barrel.

As with the other Leatherman® tools, they are very well made, extremely sharp, and work surprisingly well. They fold into a compact shape and come with a rugged belt sheath.

Priced at around \$60.00 + postage, they're only available right now online (www.gemplers.com). Look for them in a store near you soon.



Aging A Tree *cont'd*

Continued from page 10

approximate center of the tree). He says that though this method is not an exact science, it can be used in place of a complete guess and he has verified its accuracy. It also is a very “doable” method for anyone to try.

To use the “calculated estimate method,” find the largest piece of dead wood in the tree and cut a thin “tree cookie,” a thin slice of a tree limb, from the base of the dead limb. In some cases the “tree cookie” must be stained in order to read the rings. On lighter colored woods, such as Ash, Maple or some Oaks, a darker colored stain (walnut or oak) works best. On darker colored wood, such as Bois d’Arc, Walnut or Eastern Red Cedar, use a clear or light color stain (clear or amber shellac, linseed oil or even motor oil). Once the rings can be read, or seen, use a ruler to determine an average growth rate per inch in diameter. You will notice that the growth rings are not all even. If some are close together and some are not, measure both (this is not an exact science) to find out how many years per inch the tree has grown and add them together. Then divide by two to get an average growth rate per inch. Remember that each year, the tree produces “spring and summer wood.” This means that two “rings” (one is usually darker than the other) equals ONE year of growth.

Once an average (current) growth rate is established, it is multiplied times the radius of the tree (diameter divided by two) to get an average age. To accurately measure for only this purpose, measure the circumference of the tree just above the root flare or root crown. This is the area just above the “flare” or expansion of roots at the soil level. Wrap a cloth measuring tape (or a string, then measure the string) in this location to get the

circumference in inches. Divide the circumference by 3.1415 to get the trunk diameter, then divide by two to get the radius of the trunk. This assumes the tree is perfectly round. If the tree is oblong or not round, a radius measurement may not accurately represent the true center of the tree. In this case, use a diameter measurement from the smallest or most narrow portion. This can be “guesstimated” by holding a steel measuring tape up to the narrowest portion of the trunk and “eyeballing” the measurement for the diameter. Then divide this number by two to obtain the radius. Though it can be argued that the tree grew faster when it was young than currently, one can adjust for this if it is a small or medium sized tree. If it is large and old, though it may have grown faster when young, it has been old for a long time and growing slower for many years. This more than offsets any difference.

Steve recently used this method to help determine the age of two Post Oaks at a historic park in Farmers Branch. The results were surprising. The larger tree (around 28" DBH (diameter at breast height, usually measured at 4.5 foot from the ground) was calculated to be around 300-400 years old. Since both trees were in good soil and healthy (given their age), he felt their ages were well over 300 years old, though, if asked to give their age to an official source, he said he would knock off some years to be safe. Steve says his method takes all existing site conditions into account but cannot reflect all droughts, insect problems, etc. from the past. For example, if a tree is over 100 years old, it survived the “dust bowl” and did not likely grow much during that time.

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

Texas Arbor Day Presentation

Following is the speech given by President Wentworth at the 2006 state arbor day ceremony in Dallas.

Most celebrations celebrate the present or the past. Arbor Day is unique in that it celebrates the future. Since the very first Arbor Day in 1872 by only the 3rd Secretary of Agriculture, J. Sterling Morton, Arbor Day has grown into an enormous national event.

The International Society of Arboriculture has been training men and women since 1925 to care for the trees every where including those left behind by Arbor Day Ceremonies. Proper pruning and training now and throughout the life

of each tree will insure both their longevity and health.

To plant trees without further thought of care condemns millions of trees each year to a premature end. So on this day of celebration, let us not forget that with planting comes the duty, the responsibility, and the commitment to future generations to care for these and all trees we've been blessed with.

Let local communities city and state governments alike recognize that trees are a part of the infrastructure of our lives and let's commit funds for the long term care of trees while recognizing their enormous benefits we all enjoy through out the year.

As science and foresters work hand in

hand to find cures for tree problems and disease we are discovering more of the potential hidden within trees. Just recently, it has been found that a cure for many types of cancer may lie within the common birch. In South America, it's been discovered that charcoal from trees can increase the fertility of soil five fold. Many of the hidden values of trees have yet to be discovered.

We are but stewards of the urban and national forests. Let the people who come after us say that we were good stewards and that we preserved and planted trees for future generations to care for and enjoy.

Thank you.

Wanted: Citizen Scientists to Help Detect Invasive Plants in Texas *by Dr. Ron Billings, Texas Forest Service*

Do you have an interest in invasive plants and a willingness to help detect where these plants are becoming established in Texas? If so, the Texas Forest Service is offering you an opportunity to get involved as a "Citizen Scientist in Invasive Plant Detection." Invasive plants have become the target of a new cooperative project in Texas. The *Pulling Together Initiative – A Texas-sized Partnership to Manage Invasive Plants* is a collaborative project involving the Texas Forest Service and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, with funding provided by the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection. As part of this collaborative effort, the first state-wide conference on invasive plants was held last November in Austin. One of this year's project objectives is to train interested persons as

"Citizen Scientists" to identify and report invasive plants within different regions of the state.

Three training sessions are being offered for anyone wishing to become a Citizen Scientist in this project. The first training session was held July 29 in Kerrville at the County Extension office for the Central Texas region; the second will take place in Overton on August 12 at the Texas Cooperative Extension office for northeast Texas; and the third on August 26 at the Angelina County Extension building in Lufkin for those in southeast Texas. Additional training sessions are being planned for later in the year in Houston and Corpus Christi. A nominal registration fee will be charged and training materials will be provided at each training session. Enrollment is limited to the first 30 persons to sign up per region.

Master Gardeners, Master

Naturalists, or anyone else interested in becoming a Citizen Scientist in invasive plant detection will need to attend one of these sessions. Following one day of training, each trainee will be responsible for detecting and reporting the exact geographical coordinates of selected invasive plants they encounter in public and private forests, in riparian areas, along roadways, or in other natural areas in Texas. The identifications will be confirmed by invasive plant experts, based on data from field reports and digital photographs of the plant that the Citizen Scientists submit to an online database. Site locations and species observations will then become part of the state-wide early detection database on the Texas invasive plant web page *continued on back page*

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

We're on the Web!
www.isatexas.com

Citizen Scientists *cont'd*

Continued from page 11
at <http://www.texasinvasives.org>.

Each region will target 12 invasive species, although other invasive plants may be reported when found. The targeted species selected for East Texas are Chinese tallow, Chinese privet, Japanese climbing fern, Japanese honeysuckle, kudzu, Asian bamboos, Chinaberry, Chinese wisteria, giant reed, mimosa, tropical soda apple, and giant Asian dodder. For Central Texas, the targeted species include tree of heaven, Chinese tallow, Chinaberry, Chinese pistache, chaste tree, giant reed, Japanese ligustrum, castor bean, parasol tree, mimosa, Japanese honeysuckle, and kudzu.

Each training session will present information on how to

identify these 12 invasive plants, how to collect field information and GPS coordinates, how to take close-up digital photos for confirmation, and how to report new findings via the Internet. Upon completion of the training, each volunteer will receive a certificate as a *Citizen Scientist in*

Invasive Plant Detection. His/her efforts in detecting and reporting invasive plants will help to expand our knowledge of where these invasive plants have become established throughout Texas. This is the first step in managing these unwanted invasive plants.

For more information, or to participate in one of the East Texas training sessions, contact one of the following Texas Forest Service staff members:

Northeast Texas: Allen Smith, phone (903) 297-4968; e-mail lasmith@tfs.tamu.edu.

Southeast Texas: Michael Murphrey, phone (936) 639-8170; e-mail mmurphrey@tfs.tamu.edu.

Central Texas: Susan Sander, phone (830) 257-7744; e-mail rainlily@omniglobal.net.

