



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

In the Shade

Vol. 41, No. 1

May, 2017

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Seen the covers of *In the Shade* and thought “my photos should be here”? Now’s your chance. Send photos to rebecca@arborholic.com and one of them might end up on the cover. Be sure to give us a few words about what’s in the picture and where it was taken. Photos should be vertical (portrait mode) and have a resolution of 300 dpi at an 8x10 size. If you shoot with a camera or smart phone of recent vintage at the highest resolution, you’ll be fine.

PRESIDENT’S LETTER by Lara Schuman



Well, spring has sprung here in Central Texas, and even the pecans are catching up with the other trees and have leafed out. We’ve had some nice rains so far this year, and things are looking green and trees are heavy. I’m sure this is keeping you as busy as our City of Austin Urban Forestry crews.

We lost a couple of big, old trees in storms this past month. This is always difficult to deal with, in more than one way. First, you have to help people deal with the loss of what feels more like a member of the family or community than anything else. Then taking down a failed tree can be quite the challenge, and really dangerous too. I know I’ve been at the end of a rope with a branch tied on in a precarious spot after some doozy of a storm rolled through, all of the time trusting that my husband knew what he was doing up in the tree!

We’ve got a couple of great workshops coming up before the Texas Tree Climbing Championship at Govalle Park in Austin, to help you prepare yourself and your team for this kind of thing. ArborMaster is bringing their Tree Climbing Methods, Work Positioning & Best Practices Course, May 16 – 18. This is a serious training, with three full days of climbing techniques and information. They’ll even cover climbing with spurs, which can be really helpful with those tricky takedowns. We are also really lucky to have Phillip Kelley of North American Training Solutions, teaching Advanced Rigging on May 18. Rigging is an art, and this is a great opportunity to learn from one of the best. For more information on both the ArborMaster course and the Advanced Rigging course, see Events on page 11.

No matter what, you should take the time to cheer on the amazing competitors during the actual Texas Tree Climbing Championship on May 19. I’m always impressed by the great attitudes and sportsmanship of the competitors. Good luck to everyone competing, and no matter how you do, just remember that you can climb better than I can! ■

ON THE COVER

These distinctive fruits provide the common names for *Ptela trifoliata* – wafer ash or hop tree. The fruits (wafer-like papery samaras) can be used as a substitute for hops when brewing beer. The fruits start appearing in late April. Photo by Rebecca Johnson.



Don't Miss the 2017 Texas Tree Climbing Championship!

This year's competition will be held in Govalle Park in Austin on May 19 and 20. The winner qualifies to represent ISA Texas in the 2017 North American Climbing Championship.

The competition is made up of five preliminary events, to be held Friday May 19.

- **Throwline:** tests a climber's ability to install a climbing line high in the tree.
- **Belayed speed climb:** hand over hand climbing to the top of a 50-foot tree. This is a pure power house event.
- **Footlock:** like climbing the rope in gym class, only the rope is doubled climbing line and there are no knots to grab. This is a balance of skill, calmness, agility and pure strength. See a video here: <http://bit.ly/footlocktech>
- **Aerial rescue:** a 160-pound dummy is set in a tree in a simulated injury-rescue scenario. The climber must assess the situation and safely bring the injured climber to the ground. See a video here: <http://bit.ly/ARDemoVid>
- **Work climb:** We set four stations in the tree. Climber's time starts

when they are already in the top of the tree and finish when they are on the ground and unclip from their gear. See a video here: <http://bit.ly/WorkClimb>

- **hand bell station:** climbers simply ring a bell with a hand saw carried on their harness.
- **pole saw station:** climbers use a pole saw (already hanging in the tree) to ring a bell.
- **limb toss:** using a short piece of pvc pipe that simulates a branch, climbers, toss the limb into a target painted on the ground (as if to avoid dropping a branch on a customer's prized rose bush!).
- **limb walk:** a plumb-bob is hung from the end of a long low branch. Climbers must climb out to the end of the limb and ring a bell without putting too much weight on the limb. You have to put all your weight in the saddle vs. standing on the limb. If you put too much weight on the limb, the plumb-bob will drop and set off a buzzer!

The top five finishers from the preliminary events qualify to compete in the Masters' Challenge Saturday May 20. The Masters' Challenge combines all the skills from the preliminary rounds into one big climb.

All events are free and open to the public. ■

NOTE TO COMPETITORS

All preliminary events will be held at Govalle Park on Friday, May 19. Competitors should arrive for the preliminaries at 8 a.m. *sharp*. If you are experiencing difficulty arriving to roll call on time, please call Markus Smith at 512-789-8733. If you are not present for roll call, you will be disqualified and your entry fee forfeited. If you are not present with your rotation group when your name is called at any individual event, you will be disqualified from that event. All preliminary events are to conclude by end of the day on Friday.

At press time, registration appeared to be closed. If you would like to be on a waiting list, email John Giedraitis, jpg@isatexas.com.

2017 Texas Tree Award Nominations

Celebrate the accomplishments of those who have dedicated their talents to spreading a leafy green canopy over Texas by nominating them for the 2017 Texas Community Forestry Awards Program. This program is open to anyone who has a role in building stronger communities by planting, maintaining, or protecting trees.

Winners will be recognized during the 2017 Texas Tree Conference in Waco on Thursday, September 28. Each award winner will receive a numbered, remarked and framed, limited-edition print of a famous Texas tree painting especially commissioned for the program.

The Texas Community Forestry Awards Program is sponsored by the Texas A&M Forest Service and ISA Texas.

There are four award categories this year:

- **Arborist of the Year:** Nominations for individual awards are evaluated for leadership, commitment, innovation, impact and sustainability.
- **The Gold Leaf Award—Landscape Improvement:** This award recognizes individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have made significant contributions through tree planting and landscaping which enhances environmental protection, conservation, beautification, energy conservation, or wildlife protection. Projects should show significant impact over several years.
- **Arboricultural Project of the Year:** Recognition of a specific tree care, protection, or planting project that exemplifies modern arboricultural practices and customer service. Nominees may include arborists, tree care companies, landscape contractors, etc.

EDITOR'S NOTE by Rebecca Johnson



So how's your year going so far? It's hard to believe that we're five months into this year already. At the beginning of the year, I said my goals included getting new professional qualifications and certifications. I'm happy to report that with the help of ISA Texas, I've been able to keep making progress towards my goal.

ISA Texas, in partnership with Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS), launched the beta test of the new Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification (WRRQ) in March. I was lucky enough to be part of the alpha group as well as the beta group. I'm excited by the changes that were made between alpha and beta and think it's going to be a really strong and valuable qualification for our members. Look on page 14 for an article by April Rose, who was also part of the beta group.

Next on my list is the new Oak Wilt Qualification, and I'm really looking forward to it. I'm signed up for the May workshop, and I'm glad I signed up early because both the May and June workshops are full. It's really exciting to see the demand for this qualification from our members.

What's next on the horizon? If you haven't earned your Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, now is the time. We're offering two chances in June. Spaces are limited, so sign up now. And ISA Texas will continue to work to offer workshops to meet the needs of our members. Be sure to let us know what kinds of workshops you'd like to see and we'll do our best to make it happen. ■

- **Outstanding Arbor Day Activities:** An award to recognize individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have promoted Arbor Day through special projects, ceremonies, news articles or observations with an Arbor Day theme.

For more information and to download nomination forms go to

<http://isatexas.com/members/awards/> ■



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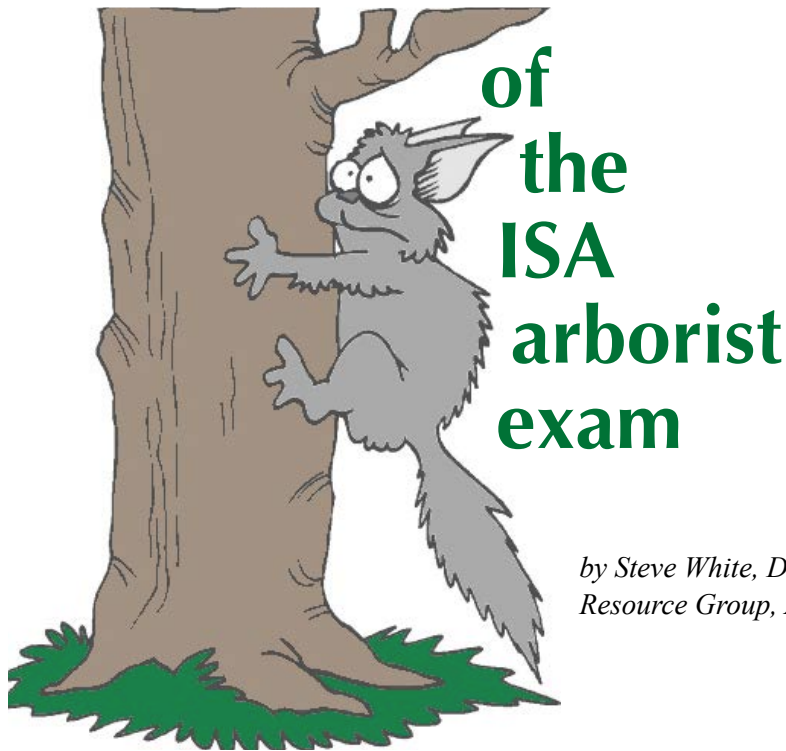
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FEAR



by Steve White, Davey
Resource Group, Austin

Part of what I do is help train and teach new employees about learning to pass the ISA Certified Arborist test. All of us that work in this industry need this achievement. It is our driver's license to back up what we do in our profession. I agree, my university Bachelor of Science in Urban Forestry far exceeds the ISA qualifications, but that is a moot point. Certified Arborist is our industry standard. So get it.

Now here is my discussion of getting over the fear of taking this 200-plus test to obtain the credential. We all drive a vehicle and we all know far more about that vehicle than we realize. We know the names of the parts, what those parts do, how many there are, and even the materials that are made from. We understand how they affect the environment and what they do. Think about it:

- Fenders
- Windshield and glass
- Lights and switches

- Exhaust system
- Pedals
- Buttons
- Fuel, oxygen and other liquids
- Wiring
- Seats and carpet
- Bumpers
- Hitches
- All that!

If you had to, you could absolutely pass a 200-question multiple choice test without even studying. And, if you are not real sharp on it you can go slow and figure out what each multiple choice item is and choose the best...and pass the test. Take your time and think in your mind.

Car parts are words, terms and processes we all are familiar with because cars are a part of our life. **Switch to the ISA test.** The ISA is testing us on how well we know the

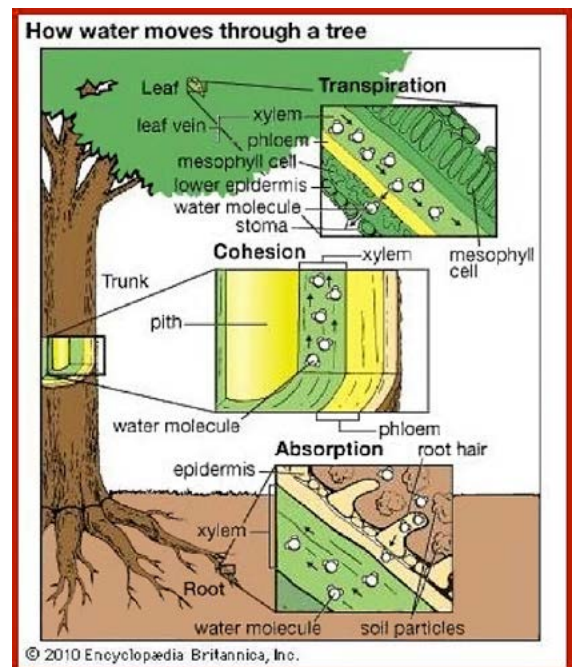
parts, functions, quantities, processes, and environmental effects related to trees. A reason we fear the ISA test is that it uses many Latin-based words and scientific terms that we are not so familiar with. It uses practical and economical concepts of caring for and managing trees. This is not something we have done since being a kid. So learn those tree parts thoroughly and understand how tree systems function, and why... and how many... and where are they.

Focus on the vocabulary terms and know them backwards and forward. A stomata is like a bumper. You know how many and what a bumper does. Right? Yes, you do. A car is a unit of many parts and functions. A tree is a unit of many parts and functions. In a tree you must understand the concept of cell division and the many types of cell tissues that end up as that thing we are so familiar with – a tree.

My closing comment is: You need the ISA Certified Arborist credential. Do whatever it takes to learn all those parts and what they do in order to make a tree. Just get it done. It's just a car. ■

See next page for an update on how the Certified Arborist Exam is scored.

It's words and processes, just like car knowledge.



UPDATE: How the Arborist Exam is scored

Recently, the Certified Arborist Exam has undergone some changes. The passing score for the exam is now 76 percent. This has gone up from 74 percent.

That does not mean that it is now more difficult to obtain. The content is weighted per domain. The *Certified Arborist Handbook* states, "The certification examination was developed by a panel of industry experts representing all aspects of arboriculture. Questions were derived from a job task analysis survey filled out by arborists from around the world. Questions are continually analyzed by the ISA Certification Test Committee using the latest test statistics, and new questions are always being developed. Questions that do not perform satisfactorily are removed from the question bank. Updated examinations are created on a regular basis."

"The written exam content is divided into 10 areas of knowledge:

1. Soil Management 12%
2. Identification and Selection 8%
3. Installation and Establishment 5%
4. Safe Work Practices 15%
5. Tree Biology 8%
6. Pruning 16%
7. Diagnosis and Treatment 12%
8. Urban Forestry 7%
9. Tree Protection 4%
10. Tree Risk Management 13% "

If there are any questions regarding certification, please email Misti Perez at mistiperez1076@gmail.com.

Five Electric Utilities Reach Standards for Tree Line USA® Certification



Five Texas utility companies—Austin Energy, Brownsville Public Utilities, CenterPoint Energy, Garland Power & Light, and Oncor Electric Delivery—have all met the core standards to be designated a Tree Line USA® utility.

Sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and administered in Texas by Texas A&M Forest Service, the Tree Line USA® Program recognizes best practices in utility arboriculture, demonstrating how trees and utilities can co-exist for the benefit of communities and citizens. The five core standards are quality tree care, annual worker training, tree planting and public education, tree-based energy conservation, and Arbor Day celebration. The utility companies must meet and maintain the standards each year to retain the certification.

As part of their overall energy conservation program, Oncor Electric Delivery and CenterPoint Energy offer free trees to residential customers through the Energy-Saving Trees Program (<http://energysavingtrees.arborday.org>). Since 2011, Oncor



Free tree given to a CenterPoint Energy customer through the Energy-Saving Trees program.

and CenterPoint have provided numerous trees (over 30,000 and 8,000, respectively) for Texas residents to plant in strategic energy-saving locations. ■

Website update includes new blog

ISA Texas members, we have updated our website and have begun attempting to reach the general public through our blog page <http://isatexas.com/blog/> to provide them with information about tree care and to encourage them to hire Certified Arborists. In order to provide current topics/news, we would like to ask if you could submit a brief sentence, photo, and website link, if available, of anything you come across in your jobs, communities or neighborhoods.

Examples of topics can be found on the blog. Appropriate topics would include good or poor practices, new city ordinances, new innovative tools, trainings, workshops, or seminars, or pest problems—all related to trees of course. Send the info to Zaina Gates either via text at 936-239-9034 or email at zgates@tfs.tamu.edu. Thanks for helping us spread the word and share information about trees.



ISA Texas members at the Lone Star Appraisal Training presented by Todd Watson and Greg David in March.

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Fire Blight Photo: William Jacobi, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org
Bacterial Leaf Scorch Photo: William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tree Climbing Methods, Work Positioning & Best Practices Course **May 16-18, Austin**

Covers systems and techniques that make tree climbing and work positioning safer, easier, and more efficient; moving rope vs stationary rope climbing systems; work positioning best practice with hand saws & chainsaws. Three-day module. No prerequisites other than the eligibility to attend requirements. <http://isatexas.com/event/tree-climbing-methods-work-positioning-best-practices-course-austin/>

Advanced Rigging Course **Pre-competition workshop with Phillip Kelley** **May 18, Austin**

Join Phillip Kelley of North American Training Solutions at the pre-competition ISA Texas educational seminar –a one-day workshop that can make you a better and safer climber. <https://tinyurl.com/kx7pmgl>

Texas Tree Climbing Championship **May 19-20, Austin**

Competition registration is closed. If interested in getting on a waiting list, email John Giedraitis at jpg@isatexas.com

The top finishers from the preliminary events on Friday qualify to compete in the Masters' Challenge, which combines all the skills from the preliminary rounds into one big climb. All events are free and open to the public. For more information: <http://isatexas.com/events/tree-climbing-competition/>

If you would like to volunteer, contact Markus Smith at 512-467-8733 or markus@justtrees.com

Certified Arborist Exam Prep Course **Each Monday in June, Austin**

This course, hosted by TreeFolks, Texas A&M Forest Service, and The City of Austin, provides foundational knowledge in arboriculture for green industry professionals preparing to take the ISA Certified Arborist Exam. It offers hands-on instruction from local certified arborists over the course of 4 classes. CEUs are available for those who are currently certified. Sessions will be held at Austin Community College's Eastview Campus. \$275 registration fee includes the ISA Arborists' Certification study guide and lunch. Registration is open at www.treefolks.org/CAP.

Urban Wildlife Series **June 8 & 29, July 11 & 25 and Aug. 5, San Antonio**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is hosting this series at the Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Ste. 208. Topics include: local resources and tools for wildlife identification and management, appreciating backyard wildlife, urban nuisance wildlife, snakes and other reptiles, and managing for songbirds. Cost: \$25 for the series or \$10 per class (payable at the door). Registration deadline: Friday, June 2. To reserve your spot, contact Denise, 210-631-0400 or dsperez@ag.tamu.edu. Make check payable to Bexar Ag & Natural Resource Committee. Mail registration fee to: 3355 Cherry Ridge, Ste. 212, San Antonio, TX 78230.

PLT Outreach Workshop **June 8, July 13, August 3 and September 16**

Certified Arborists are often required to provide outreach to the public. For some this is a fun opportunity to practice "soft skills," but others may struggle with how to explain concepts in a fun and simple manner. If you provide outreach to adults or children, this workshop can show you some fun strategies. All workshops will be held at the Wild Basin Creative Research Center. Participants receive a Pre K-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide and lunch, and CEUs are available for Certified Arborists and teachers. Registration is at www.rosewoodarbor.com/events.

TRAQ Workshop **June 19–21, Fort Worth, and June 22–24, San Antonio** **Registration deadline May 19.**

ISA Texas is offering two opportunities to earn TRAQ this summer. Classes will be held June 19–21 in Fort Worth and June 22–24 in San Antonio. Participants will get two days of training from Skip Kincaid, Board-Certified Master Arborist from Missouri. On the third day, they will demonstrate their skills for the instructor in a half-day assessment to complete the course.

For Fort Worth TRAQ information:

<http://bit.ly/ftworthTRAQ2017>

For San Antonio TRAQ information:

<http://bit.ly/SATRAQ2017>

Oak Wilt Qualification Course **June 29-30 in Fredericksburg**

NOTE: This workshop is full and registration is closed. To be placed on a waiting list, please email John Giedraitis at jpg@isatexas.com

International Tree Conference and Tree Climbing Championship **July 28–30, Climbing; July 29–Aug. 2, Conference** **Washington, DC**

The world's premier gathering of arboricultural professionals, where practicing arborists and urban foresters come together with top researchers and educators.

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/index.aspx>

2017 Texas Tree Conference **September 27-29, Waco Convention Center**

We anticipate over 1,000 attendees again and will have Texas, national and international speakers. There will be tracks for commercial, municipal and utility arborists with plenty of time to socialize and visit the exhibitors at the packed trade show.

Information on being a speaker: <http://bit.ly/2017Speaker>

Information on being a sponsor or exhibitor:

<http://bit.ly/2017Exhibitor>





Tim Jackson of Davey Tree Experts demonstrating chainsaw and tree felling safety at the 8th Annual Bilingual Tree Worker Training in San Antonio in March.

San Marcos Education Grant



HEB donated \$2,700 in support of the city's Urban Forestry Program and materials designed to increase awareness of tree care. Items include a tree owner's manual and children's coloring book. The manual includes information on tree selection, pruning, watering and more. Information on the program is online at www.sanmarcostx.gov/forestry.

From left are City Communications Director Kristi Wyatt; Director of Environmental Affairs for HEB Richard McDonald; Mayor John Thomaides; Executive Director of Community Services Rodney Cobb; Economic Development & Downtown Administrator Kevin Burke; Assistant City Manager Collette Jamison; and Urban Forester Kelly Eby. (Photo by Don Anders.)

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See the video



Report from a beta workshop:

Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification Undergoing Beta Testing

by April Rose, member, ISA Texas Board of Directors

The Texas A&M Forest Service is in the process of beta testing a new Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification (WRRQ). Like the Oak Wilt Qualification, the program will be delivered by Texas A&M Forest Service, administered by ISA Texas, and only ISA Certified Arborists will be eligible. ISA Texas board members had the opportunity to attend beta workshops that included two days of training and testing, to provide feedback to TFS.

The beta workshop I attended was on March 29 and 30 at Down Home Ranch in Elgin, about 40 miles east of Austin. Down Home Ranch is a working 410-acre ranch for adults with intellectual disabilities. The ranchers who live on site produce plants for sale, vegetables, eggs and other goods. There is a small learning center, a multipurpose hall, beautiful trails, and cabins. TFS has guided wildfire risk mitigation efforts during the Ranch's annual Texas Chainsaw Manicure event for many years, so there are opportunities to observe various types of fuel reduction practices. Down Home Ranch has been a Firewise Community, a national grassroots wildfire preparation program, since 2008.

Kari Hines, Mark Kroeze, and Wade Powell with TFS facilitated the workshop. We started with a discussion about why Certified Arborists are a good fit to offer wildfire risk reduction services: they are trained in safety standards for

vegetation management and equipment use; they understand how trees grow and how to achieve Firewise landscape principles over time without compromising tree health; and they are already providing landscape services to public and private landowners. Next we talked about how national and local land management policies have contributed to fire suppression, fuel buildup and wildfire risk. The trend of selling and dividing large ranches into ranchettes or smaller lots means that the wildland urban interface (WUI) wildfire risk is expected to continue growing. We also discussed fire ecology and physics, including how fuels, topography, and weather can impact fire behavior. We then addressed hazard assessment, risk mitigation and the steps a homeowner can take to "harden" the home, which means to limit combustible materials that are on or near the home. We performed several assessments in the field to identify risks in the home ignition zone (HIZ) and surrounding landscape and to consider what recommendations may reduce the risk of property damage in a wildfire. We concluded the workshop with a written and field exam.

It is important for homeowners and land managers to be aware that the wildfire threat in Texas continues to grow as our population continues to spread into the wildland urban interface. This new qualification will help meet the need for wildfire risk reduction services. Many homeowners are interested in reducing their wildfire risk and implementing Firewise principles because of the high visibility of recent

Below: Wade Powell provides training on understanding wildfire behavior.

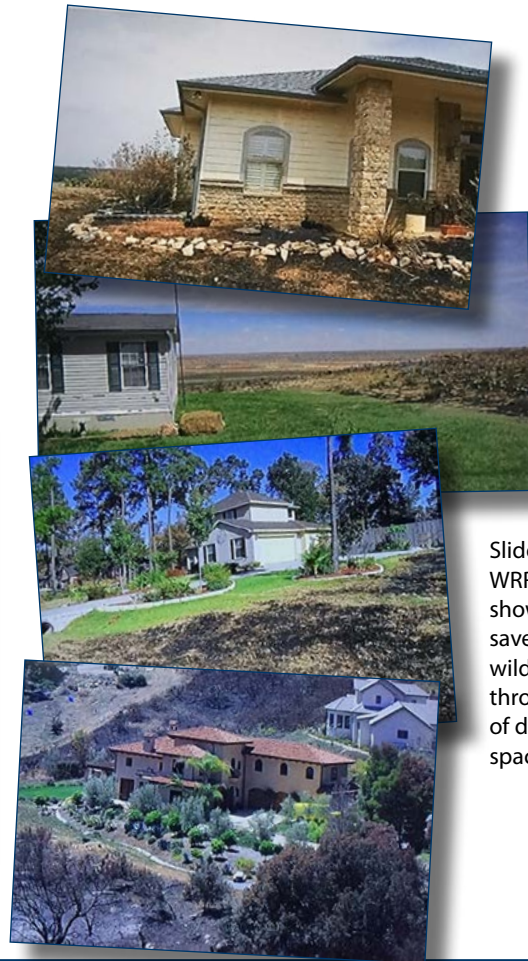
Right: April Rose (center) summarizes of her findings regarding the wildfire risk of a cabin for Kari Hines (l) and Monica Singhania (r).



- ◀ wildfires. Other property owners may not be aware of their wildfire risk and may appreciate a wildfire risk reduction consultation by their Certified Arborist. After my own personal experience meeting landowners in Spicewood and Oak Hill, then working extensively on reforestation with landowners and stakeholders in Bastrop County after the 2011 fires, I am excited about this new qualification and the prospect of adding wildfire risk reduction consultation as a service to my clients. Be on the lookout at the 2017 Texas Tree Conference in Waco with more details about the program. ■



The beta class of WRRQ looks at wildland to assess the fuel type, density and continuity.



Slides from WRRQ training show houses saved from wildfire through use of defensible space.

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Mix three simple ingredients to create an effective and natural treatment for fire ants.

by Nathan Riggs, Conservation Project Coordinator, San Antonio Water System

Temperatures are warming, plants are blooming, and the urge to participate in the SAWS Landscape/Patioscape Coupon program (<http://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/coupons-and-rebates/>) is strong! With those good intentions to save water comes the need to work the soil, remove grass, add good soil, install those nice plants and mulch them into blissful beauty.

Invariably, homeowners and gardeners cross paths with one of our least favorite landscape denizens: the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*), commonly known as the fire ant. (<http://fireant.tamu.edu/learn/biology/>)

Fire ants have been the bane of landscape enjoyment for many years in Texas and have stung their way into the doghouse of many humans and pets alike. For those whose landscape work is rudely interrupted and delayed by fire ants, the question arises “What can I use to kill these fire ants relatively quickly and still be able to finish my work without lots of pesticide residue hanging around?”

The answer comes from years of field research by entomologists with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and it’s an easy, effective and natural remedy you can concoct at home. There are three simple ingredients: water, orange oil and blue Dawn dish soap.

Here is the recipe:

- 1 gallon water
- 3 ounces blue Dawn dish soap (Why blue Dawn? Research showed it worked better than other brands and colors.)
- 1.5 ounces orange oil (*Be sure to use the correct measure. Orange oil at a 3-ounce-per-gallon rate is used as a natural herbicide and will burn plants.*)

The soap helps the orange oil mix well in the water and stick to the ants in the soil. Apply the mixture following these easy steps:

1. Add the orange oil and soap to the water and mix thoroughly.
2. DO NOT DISTURB the fire ant nest before applying the orange oil/soap/water mixture, no matter how much fun it is!! If you disturb the nest first, the ants will begin to disperse away from the nest and your treatment will be much less successful, if at all.
3. Beginning at the center of the mound, slowly pour the mixture onto the soil in a circle, gradually expanding the circle from the center outward. Cover the mound area completely from center to edges.
4. USE ALL OF THE MIXTURE ON THE MOUND, no matter the size of the nest.

Results of the AgriLife field tests showed a better than 70 percent success rate of treatment when compared to boiling water, regular water and other similar treatments. After treatment, you should be able to continue working within an hour or so. Be sure to take precautions for the few ants that may still be alive.

NOTE: adding more orange oil than listed in the recipe dramatically increases the chances of plant damage or mortality by this treatment. With orange oil at 1.5 ounces per gallon, plants may experience a little bit of yellowing, but it shouldn’t kill the plants.

Visit Antman’s Hill® ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/antmans.hill/#_="](https://www.facebook.com/groups/antmans.hill/#_=)) for this recipe and lots of other fun bug facts! ■



Climbing Kit Prize Package

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES for the ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package that will be awarded to the winner of the Texas Tree Climbing Championship. This kit is intended to help equip the winner to represent ISA Texas at the International Tree Climbing Championship.

The prize package includes:

- Husqvarna: Arborist Technical Helmet by Petzl, Husqvarna Composite Multi-Purpose Axe
- Buckingham Master 5.0 Arborist Tree Climbing Saddle
- Silky Tsurugi Curve Hand Saw
- ArborMaster® 150' Hawkeye Climbing Line by Samson
- OREGON® Tool Bag
- Vermeer Logo'd Camo Tumbler
- 50% savings for an ArborMaster® 2-Day or 3-Day Hands-On Training Module



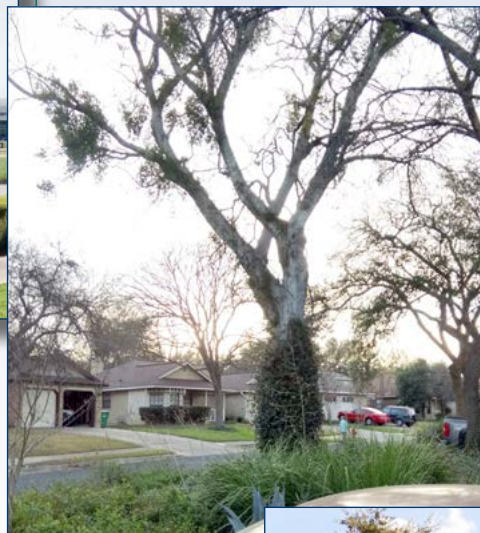
Tree Risk Assessment Qualification

YOU CAN EARN TRAQ THIS SUMMER

As professional arborists, we should all be aware of the risks inherent in our work. By improving our ability to predict tree failures, we can carefully manage that risk to maintain a high level of safety on the job and help property owners decide how best to manage their trees. To that end, ISA Texas encourages arborists to earn the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ). This program is ideal for arborists who are looking to expand their credentials while increasing the safety of their customers and workers.



TRAQ should be invaluable to crew managers, climbers, salespeople, municipal arborists, and consulting arborists alike. The course provides a systematic method of evaluating tree risk along with a standardized vocabulary to communicate that risk. Arborists will learn the vital skills needed to determine a tree's likelihood of failure and its level of hazard, enabling property owners to make



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an informed decision about how best to manage their trees. For crew managers and climbers, it will improve their ability to maintain safe work sites and to avoid climbing into a dangerous situation.

ISA Texas is offering two opportunities to earn TRAQ this summer. Classes will be held June 19–21 in Fort Worth and June 22–24 in San Antonio. Participants will get two days of training from Skip Kincaid, Board-Certified Master Arborist from Missouri. On the third day, they will demonstrate their skills for the instructor in a half-day assessment to complete the course.

For Fort Worth information: <http://bit.ly/ftworthTRAQ2017>.

For San Antonio information: <http://bit.ly/SATRAQ2017>. ■

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Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA)

Our mission is to advance tree care businesses while increasing safety and professionalism, and raising the profile of the industry.

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TCIA members have access to exclusive benefits, resources and deep discounts on industry events.

ROCs

Our regional outreach coordinators serve as local resources for our members.

CTSP

Certified Tree Care Safety Professionals have graduated in the last 10 years.

2,236



RESOURCES

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What's the Big IDEa?

Can you identify this 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 July issue.

Hint: This tree's distinctive bark helps provide protection from fire.

March Winner



Last issue's winner was Mario De La O, Landscape Coordinator with the City of San Angelo Parks Department, who correctly identified Siltassel, *Garrya ovata* ssp. *Lindheimeri*.