

In the Shade



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
DECEMBER, 2019



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President's Letter



Greetings ISA Texas,

I hope everyone enjoyed the Texas Tree Conference this year. Our volunteers and staff dedicated a substantial amount of time to this event, so a huge thank you to those who worked tirelessly to produce another great conference. We also received good feedback this year and we will continue to improve our future conferences based off those suggestions and comments.

I wanted to include a snapshot of our conference numbers over the past few years. As you can see in the table on page 13, we continue to expand our conference in many categories. The conference is a great way to get more partnering industries involved with ISA Texas to help us collaborate on some common goals.

During our two-day retreat in December, we will update our work plan and set new priorities and objectives for this upcoming year. As our chapter continues to expand, one of those priorities will be memberships and member services. We will be discussing this topic in depth, which will also include discussions with ISA. In conclusion, we will discuss our proposed budget and adopt the final document during the retreat.

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments please do not hesitate to contact me at jalfaro@jerseyvillagetx.com, or our Executive Director, John Giedraitis at jpg@isatexas.com.

Professionally yours,
Jason Alfaro

In the Shade

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December 2019

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ISA Texas 2020 Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 8, 2020 10:00 a.m.

13th Annual Houston-Area Tree Planting Competition

Tomball

Grab 10 friends and a shovel for this friendly tree planting competition, hosted by the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council and Harris County Flood Control District. Registration is \$50 per team and includes T-shirts and lunch for all competitors. For more detail and to register visit: www.HAUFC.org

February 19, 2020

North Central Texas Urban Forestry Conference

Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives

The 2020 NCTUFC will be held at the Hurst Convention Center. The speakers will be Gretchen Riley, Dr. John Nielson, Dr. Hans Williams, Sam Hill, Dr. Mike Merchant, Kristoffer Rasmussen, Angela Kralik, and Rustin Stephens. Registration TBA mid-December.

<http://ctufc.org/conference/>

February 24-26, 2020

TRAQ Course and Assessment

The ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) program provides an opportunity for professionals in the arboriculture industry to expand their knowledge through education and training in the fundamentals of tree risk assessment. Registration to be open mid to late December. The ISA Texas membership will receive an email as soon as it is available.

February 27, 2020

SAAA Bilingual Workshop

Skip Kincaid will be the featured speaker be on the look out for registration.

<https://saarborist.org/>

February 28, 2020

TRAQ Renewal

The TRAQ Renewal Course is a one-day refresher, with five hours of instruction, and three hours to take the exam. Current TRAQ holders can complete the course as early as 3 1/2 years into their Qualification (18 months before your expiration date). All ISA Texas members who are eligible to take the renewal will receive an email as soon as registration is open.

April 17-19, 2020

3rd Annual Texas Women's Tree Climbing Workshop

Watch ISA Texas for registration and sponsorship opportunities.



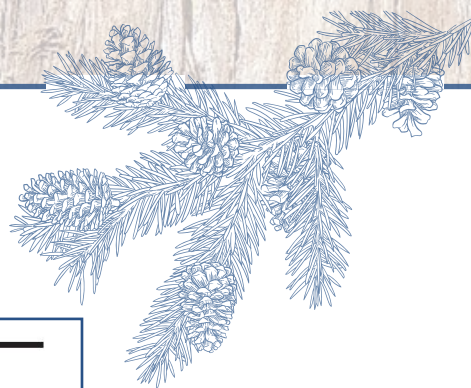
Editor's Note

Rebecca Johnson

At the end of each year, we humans take stock and look back. ISA Texas has had a very busy year. We've added two new paid staff members, we've held many successful educational events and we've hosted some amazing people. We've said a happy hello to new board members and goodbye to others. We appreciate anyone who is willing to take on the often thankless task of keeping this ship running.

This month, the board will get together and determine how we can build on the successes we've had and how we can continue to improve. We'll

discuss succession planning for the board and focus on membership - growing our membership and increasing member satisfaction. We'll be sending a survey to all the members asking for their input on what we've done and where we should be going. But you don't have to wait for the survey to provide your input - we have several committees that need members and help, including the newsletter. If you're interested in being involved in a committee, contact one of the board members and we'll help slot you in.



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Discounts: Discounts on merchandise purchased from International Headquarters; discount on ISA annual conference, access to members-only online resources, discounts on certifications and re-certifications

Website: www.isatexas.com

ON THE COVER

Recently a group of ISA Texas arborists partnered with the City of Austin to give the Treaty Oak a little TreeLC. Read the full story on page 14. Pictured here are Guy LeBlanc and John Geidraitis standing in front of the venerable oak.

"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, 'go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.'"

- Lewis Carroll

San Marcos Wins Conservation Grant

The City of San Marcos will receive a \$423,500 grant from the United States Forest Service to fund the land purchase of the Sink Creek Community Forest Tract. This is the first Community Forest and Open Space Program grant awarded to a project in Texas.

The City purchased the 102-acre tract through a three-year lease with The Trust for Public Land in 2017 for a total purchase price of \$1.27 million. City Council approved the lease-purchase agreement with the expectation that external funding sources would be sought to match the commitment of public funds.

"The city targeted this property for conservation so it can serve as a buffer from development in a particularly sensitive area," said City of San Marcos Urban Forester Kelly Eby. "By awarding these funds to the City, the U.S. Forest Service is joining our efforts to achieve strategic environmental planning."

The federal financial assistance granted through the Community Forest and Open



Space Program of the U.S. Forest Service will be applied towards this year's third and final installment payment for the Sink Creek property.

The land is located in the Upper San Marcos Watershed and Sink Creek connects to the sensitive headwaters of the San Marcos River.

The area includes limestone cliffs, ancient live oak trees and plentiful wildlife. The land will remain open space, where it will help protect the water quality of the river, foster the native ecosystem and

mitigate some of the urban heat island effect as the city expands.

The City would like to thank the following partners and programs for their roles in securing this tract: Texas State University, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, The Trust for Public Land, The Meadows Center, San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance, San Marcos River Foundation, and the San Marcos Habitat Conservation Plan.

For more information, contact Drew Wells at dwells@sanmarcostx.gov.



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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

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Tom Blackmon	Round Rock
Brad Blair	Plano
Duncan Brooks	Waco
Colt Burkett	Schertz
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Nolan Butterfras	Tomball
Heather Carman	Austin
Bruce Calder	Austin
Heather Carman.....	Austin
Julie Chapman	Austin
Carlos Corea.....	Boerne
Tony Cornejo	Argyle
Clint Cox	McKinney
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Joshua Davis	Argyle
Randy Davis	Fort Worth
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Dale Donahue	Austin
Jason Elder	Victoria
Jerry Flemming.....	Iowa Park
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Augustine Flores	Waco
Erick Flores	Stafford
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Colt Franklin	Fairview
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Joe Gonzalez.....	Boerne
Moises Guerrero	Laredo
Saul Guerrero	Galveston
Randal Haines.....	Willow Grove
Timothy Harlow	Wichita Falls
Emanuel Hernandez.....	Aurora
Gus Huerta	Georgetown
Cory Johnson	Amarillo
Kyle Kilgore.....	Stafford
Phillip Koury.....	New Windsor
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Jeff Latour	Arlington
Tam Le.....	Fort Worth
Tyler Level	Leander
Michael Lockhoff.....	Tulsa
Edilio Lopez	Galveston
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Miguel Lupez.....	San Antonio

Charles Mahnke.....	Pittsburg
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Allison Williams	Austin
Margo Williams	Spring Branch
Camille Wiseman	Austin
Lazaro Yanez	Temple
David Yarbrough	Dallas
Jose Zarzoza	Austin
Santos Zetino	Dallas

Like A Boss

by
Keith Babberney City of Austin
Forester, AR Judge

Thanks to all who help organize and put on our Texas Tree Climbing Championship. As a long-time judge of the Aerial Rescue event, I'll post a recap of the contestants I've seen over the years.

See if you recognize yourself:

The Newbie: Upon entering the event, The Newbie yells "Call 911!" to nobody in particular, then rushes to install his ascent system. Next, a check for electric lines, dummy response, and bees. Finally, a long, slow body thrust to run out the clock. Score: 3.

The Communicator: The Communicator walks into the ring, meets all the judges and techs, performs a three act play with the dummy to establish the need to rescue, draws a map and writes out instructions to the person calling 911 so they won't forget anything, and gives a full consultation on the health and stability of the tree. Score: around 6, because The Communicator never left the ground.

The Innovator: After a quick reconnaissance, The Innovator pulls out a wad of hardware he bought this morning and immediately begins assembling it according to the seminar from the day before. After five unsuccessful attempts, The Innovator switches to a Blake's hitch at the last minute just to get off the ground. Score: 7, because The Innovator never made it into the tree.

The Climber: Five minute deadline? Bah! The Climber can get him down in two minutes flat! His ascent, transition, and transfer to the dummy are artistic and beautiful to watch. Score: maybe 15, because The Climber never read the score sheet to see where all the points are earned.

The Mouse: Timid in all things, The Mouse is awkward and self-conscious throughout the event. It's clear things are being said, but nobody knows what, because it just comes out as a low mumble. Score: Anyone's guess--depends on how well the judges hear.

The Gear Head: Before the event, The Gear Head puts on saddle, chest box, foot ascender, knee ascender, chest ascender, bandolier with 12 extra carabiners and slings, a first aid kit, three gallons of water, a suture kit, a space blanket, and an MRE in case the victim is hungry. After a quick site inspection, The Gear Head begins attaching ascenders to the ascent line. Once installed, The Gear Head realizes he needs a bag just out of reach, unclips, gets the bag, clips back in, ascends, sets up a three-way redirect that magically floats the dummy around a branch during descent, and runs out of time just before touching down. Score: 15-20.

The Player: Knowing the rules and the score sheet well, The Player systematically collects the points: Check responsiveness, call 911, inspect tree, ascend, report to ground, call out to dummy, etc. Unfortunately, The Player never seems to adapt the script to the current situation. Score: a solid 20-35.

The Boss: The Boss knows the site, is prepared with emergency protocols, and has a plan ready to go before entering the ring. The Boss immediately determines the climber's status, then secures the scene with authority; anyone passing by immediately knows who is in charge of what's happening. While assigning tasks to everyone on the site, The Boss is already preparing to ascend and simultaneously continues to evaluate the tree and climber. The Boss knows the tree was reasonably

safe when the job started, but recognizes that new risks might have been introduced when the climber was injured. While climbing, The Boss continues to assess the tree and the dummy, reporting to ground support on anything relevant. Once secured near the victim, The Boss reports symptoms to the ground for relay to EMS and continues to look for and report potential hazards. Before and during descent, The Boss finalizes the plan and relays it to the ground. Once the victim is down, The Boss gives one final assessment to the EMTs and hands the patient off to them. Score: Winner!



ISA Leadership Workshop

The ISA Leadership Workshop was recently held at the Westin Peachtree Plaza, a short walk from ISA headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. It is an opportunity for ISA leaders to learn, network, and exchange ideas. The interactive agenda is geared toward relevant and valuable training topics structured to enhance the skills of those in leadership positions while optimizing the workshop experience. The program is specifically designed for the staff and volunteer leaders of all ISA chapters, professional affiliates, and associate organizations, and we especially encourage the executives and incoming presidents of these organizations to attend.

There were several individuals from Texas who had the opportunity to attend;

A.J. Thibodeaux Jr., Preservation Tree Services, ISA Texas President Elect

"I attended the annual ISA Leadership Workshop for the first time in 2018. Cycling back through my second tour on the ISA Texas Board of Directors after a long break from the late 80's, early 90's and my first time as a member of the Executive Committee, I very quickly realized that a lot has changed in the management of our great organization over the years. The 2018 Leadership Workshop opened my eyes to how large ISA has grown and how much it has evolved. For these reasons, I chose to attend again this year. I would highly encourage anyone that is currently serving on the Board or is considering running for an Executive Committee seat to attend this event. The knowledge gained in how ISA is structured and operated is priceless. The selected speakers at the 2019 Workshop where exceptional. Changing demographics, innovations in technology and economy swings are having a detrimental effect to industry associations across the nation. Without a doubt, things are changing, and this workshop is the perfect opportunity to stay in front of these changes. Also, the peer networking opportunities will reassure you that our industry is growing, stronger than ever and ready for whatever the future brings."

Rebecca Johnson, Arborholic, ISA Texas Newsletter Editor

"This was my second Leadership workshop and it was exciting to attend the first held at the new headquarters in Atlanta. The focus this year was on membership. We had a lot of great discussions about how to more effectively engage with members. A lot of attention was placed on generational differences, but we discovered that within the group there was more overlap than differences. The discussions about various methods of engagement was thought provoking. The best part of the workshop was getting to talk to board members from the other components around the world. The networking during meals, breaks and sessions helped us learn from each other. While each component has their own unique challenges, there's a lot to be gained when we get together and talk about it."

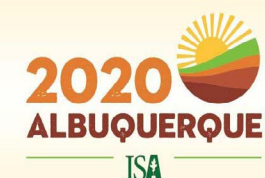
Daniel Cottier, Preservation Tree Services, ISA Texas Certification Liason

"I wanted to say thank you to the ISA and ISA Texas for allowing me the opportunity to attend the 2019 ISA Leadership Workshop held at ISA's new location in Atlanta, Georgia. As a new board member, I gained valuable insight from chapters all over the world as well as facetime with our local chapter executives and staff. Learning about membership, the relationship between the international and local chapters, as well as strategies for effective leadership, I gained a more comprehensive understanding of how to better serve the membership as a whole. The tour of ISA Headquarters was a great time as well. I would definitely go again if the opportunity presents itself."

The ISA Leadership workshop is an opportunity for ISA leaders to learn, network, and exchange ideas.

Eugene Gehring, ISA Texas Education Program Manager

"It was good to put faces with the names of the chapter executives during the ISA component executives meeting. We share a lot of the same struggles. Sarah Sladek, a marketing and media professional who specializes in Demographic shifts presented most of Wednesday. My takeaway was millennials are a majority of the workforce, connect differently than previous generations and prefer more interactive, visual experiences. This lends to providing more immersive versus lecture learning opportunities. The workshop ended on Friday with a talk from Jan Davis, Deputy Regional Forester-Region 8 (Formerly TFS forester in Granbury) and Paul Johnson, current ISA President, gave a presentation on how International has evolved into a Policy Governance Board. (For more info, search policy governance Brown Dog Consulting) In simplified terms the Board sets policy for staff to follow rather than directing staff on what to do."



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Outstanding Tree Care Professionals Honored at Texas Tree Conference

Texas A&M Forest Service and ISA Texas honored tree care professionals at the 39th Texas Tree Conference in Waco, Texas in September.

Each year, thousands of tree care professionals gather in Waco to learn from national leaders in research, commercial and utility arboriculture and urban forestry. Those recognized during the conference with the 2019 Texas Community Forestry Awards Program went above and beyond when caring for and working to expand Texas' tree canopy over the past year.

"Working with the Texas Chapter of ISA to honor great examples of arboriculture and community forestry across the state of Texas is a privilege," said Paul Johnson, Texas A&M Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program Leader. "Each year we get many worthy nominations, and it is a pleasure to recognize the efforts of the likes of Mark Duff, TreeFolks, The Trail Foundation and West Texas Urban Forestry Council."

The following groups and individuals were honored at the 2019 Texas Community Forestry Awards Program:

Arborist of the Year: Mark Duff

In January, 2017, Mark Duff concluded a 26-year career with the Texas A&M Forest Service. After earning a BS in Forestry and MS in Business from Colorado State University, Mark spent his career in Texas, providing technical forestry and arboricultural assistance to communities and public and private landowners in-and-around the rapidly growing areas of Central Texas.

Born in Venezuela, Mark possesses excellent bilingual speaking and writing capabilities. This skill, combined with his passion for ISA, arboriculture, teaching and people, made him a point-person with regard to the coordination and delivery of hundreds of professional bilingual arboricultural workshops, trainings and seminars. Educational events cosponsored by TFS and ISA resulted in the advancement and professional empowerment of thousands of Hispanic tree care workers in Texas. Mark Duff is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and a long-standing member and leader of numerous ISA membership and educational committees.

Arboriculture Project of the Year: Trees for the Blanco (Project conducted by TreeFolks)

TreeFolks' reforestation efforts placed the organization at the forefront of the speedy recovery of the Blanco River after the devastating flash floods of 2015 wiped out more than 80% of the riparian forest. TreeFolks planted over 200,000 trees in four years and educated nearly 300 landowners on the importance of proper riparian management.



Gold Leaf Award: The Trail Foundation Urban Forestry Management Program

With over 4 million annual visits to the Butler Trail and surrounding park system of Lady Bird Lake, the urban forest is a significant part of the aesthetic and recreational appeal, providing shade, visual screening and natural beauty. The forest provides irreplaceable environmental services to the city, including cleaning air, reducing urban temperatures, providing wildlife habitat and mitigating flooding and erosion. In partnership with Austin Parks and Recreation Department, The Trail Foundation has focused much of its conservation, restoration and maintenance efforts on the forestry management needs of this area.

In 2015, as a response to the City Council approved Austin Urban Forest Plan, The Trail Foundation commissioned its own plan to specifically address the needs of the urban forest around the lake: The Butler Trail at Lady Bird Lake: Urban Forestry and Natural Area Management Guidelines. This publication included the first comprehensive tree inventory of the area, a complete tree risk assessment, a prioritized list of land management tasks, and a five-year work plan. The framework for this plan was based around a set of five priorities: restore and enhance plant communities; repair and improve ecological function; enhance resilience; enhance the user experience and facilitate stewardship.



Photos by Blake Hampton.

Working with the Texas Chapter of ISA to honor great examples of arboriculture and community forestry across the state of Texas is a privilege.

Over the last five years, the Foundation has used these guidelines to invest over \$600,000 into forestry work, planting thousands of trees, working with Certified Arborists on many large restoration projects, addressing the impact of invasive trees and soil compaction on forest health, and deploying hundreds of volunteers each year to help with these efforts, a contribution valued at over \$100,000. The impact of this work has been a model for how cross-sector partnerships can be leveraged to achieve a city's lofty environmental goals.

Outstanding Arbor Day: West Texas Urban Forestry Council

Working together as a community is the key to positive social change. In an effort to reduce carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, Alon Strive Reduced Emissions Program invests in community carbon reduction, carbon off-set programs throughout the United States. A percentage of the sales of gasoline was donated to the West Texas Urban Forestry Council (WTUFC) to plant trees on Texas Arbor Day 2018 in the City of El Paso, the site of the State Arbor Day Celebration. WTUFC is a coalition of people interested in protecting and developing the urban community forest resources of West Texas and the El Paso Region. The Council strives to provide the most

recent information and technological advances in tree care and maintenance.

WTUFC members are interested in protecting and developing the urban and community forest resources of West Texas. Members of WTUFC decided to engage two community gardens in the community tree-planting project to multiply the benefits of this partnership. The two community gardens chosen were the Welden Yerby Senior Citizen Community Garden, which is a large community garden situated on the North-East side of El Paso, and the Chamizal Community Garden, which is situated in the downtown area of El Paso and is open to the community at-large. WTUFC decided to plant trees and fruit trees in the community gardens; a total of 12 trees were planted with the help of Alon Strive volunteers, WTUFC members, and community garden members. This project deserves the Outstanding Arbor Day award because it exemplifies the benefits of working together for a common goal of long-lasting community health and well-being. The trees planted as part of this project will help capture carbon, reduce emissions, provide fruit for community members to consume and enjoy, and will have a wide-array of other benefits.

The 2019 Texas Tree Conference in Waco had another successful trade show with vendors and exhibitors selling out and filling Chisholm Hall. This year many vendors returned and enjoyed having a similar location as to past years, and the newcomers also had a successful trade show. With our attendance numbers breaking 1000 for the conference, many exhibitors expressed numerous sales and business opportunities from the conference. The digital ISA Texas app was a success with the Tree Disease ID Quest and social media contests driving users and visitors to the trade show floor. The Silent Auction was also prosperous this year. The ISA Bookstore had a bumpy start with their book shipment misplaced, but they quickly recovered with a replacement shipment. The evening social on Thursday brought in many visitors to the trade show floor with a fruitful TREE Fund heads and tails event; there was even a revival of the poker game with a portion of the funds donated to TREE Fund. The 2019 Texas Tree Conference Trade Show was an overall success, building great expectations for our 40-year anniversary in 2020.

Texas Tree Conference & Trade Show 2019



Kelly Eby
Kelly is an active volunteer with the ISA Texas, and has been for years. She has served on the Board of Directors, as a conference track chair, and for the past many years has coordinated moderators and volunteers for the annual Texas Tree Conference. She is the Urban Forester for the City of San Marcos, was previously the City of New Braunfels's Urban Forester. Kelly is a graduate of Stephen F Austin, a member of ISA and is an ISA Certified Arborist. She is also a member of the Society of Municipal Arborists and a 2008 Municipal Forestry Institute graduate.



Micah Pace
Micah has a strong history of service and support to Texas arboriculture. He is a Past President of the ISA Texas, and under his leadership our organization adopted its first strategic plan. As the Director of Consulting for Preservation Tree Service, he works to maximize the benefits of urban trees through management, science, and education. In his spare time, Micah has also volunteers with the Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council (TBUFC), chaired the Texas Regional Plant Appraisal Committee, and is active with the American Society of Consulting Arborists.

Special Recognition to ISA Texas's Volunteers of the Year!

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Recap of 2019 Conference

Total Registrations: 1,150 – A new record!
Ten years ago in 2009 there were 289 registrations (285% increase!)
Exhibitors and Sponsors: 84
Speakers: 28
Students: 28
New Members: 236
Silent Auction for Student Scholarships: \$5,500



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Treaty Oak Revisited

by Guy LeBlanc,
Arbor Vitae Tree Care

Several Austin area tree services convened to provide some long overdue pruning for the city's historic Treaty Oak. For those unfamiliar with the tree, this massive, over four-foot diameter live oak was poisoned by a deranged man back in 1989, using an herbicide designed to kill broadleaf trees. It worked as advertised, and soon the discolored leaves began to rain down. The tree shed and put on at least four sets of leaves in the year following the attack. Over a dozen consulting arborists from around the U.S. were called in to debate treatment options, and several local arborists (including me) were hired to help administer the various treatments. In 1991, city crews removed the two-thirds of its enormous canopy that eventually died, most of it on one side of the tree. After the sawdust settled, the wait began. The leaves held, and after several years the Treaty Oak came roaring back, with amazing growth rates putting on thousands of pounds of canopy and several inches of girth over the next two decades. Local arborists occasionally volunteered pruning and the City of Austin's Park and Recreation Dept. also pruned the tree and managed the root zone

This project was the first major round of pruning the tree received since our last Texas I.S.A. work day on the tree 10 years ago- yes, 2009. The tree's canopy has become extremely dense, with many of its limbs over 30 feet long and cascading straight down, braiding together in many (most?) areas to form a cozy hobbit hotel underneath. There was a moderate amount of deadwood in the tree, not much considering it had been a while, and the largest dead limb was no more than about six inches diameter. We did some elimination of the worst rubbing limbs, and a tiny amount of reduction pruning in a huge horizontal limb that has some defects in

it. We also removed two dead stubs that resulted from the original deadwood removal in 1991, where the tree did not form the woundwood we had hoped for. The large rolls of live tissue that did develop were between one and two feet behind the cut faces, and we all agreed these now-petrified stubs needed to go, so the tree could close over them with minimal energy expenditure. One of these was about 14 inches diameter, the other about 20 inches. The larger piece was lowered down on a line as there was a large root flare 25 feet below it, and it weighed around 250 pounds.

Another thing that was done in 1991 was to plant a Treaty Oak clone



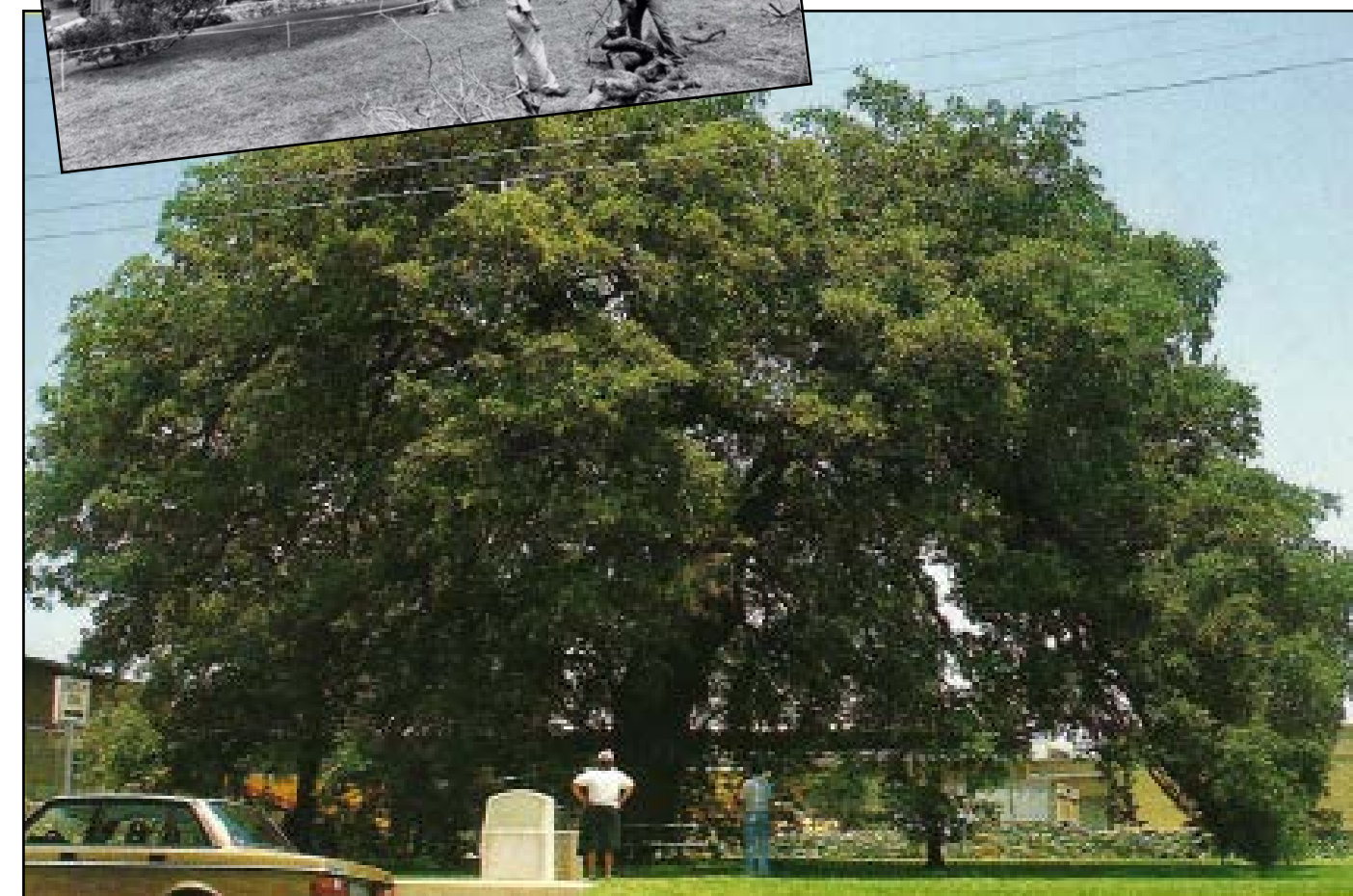
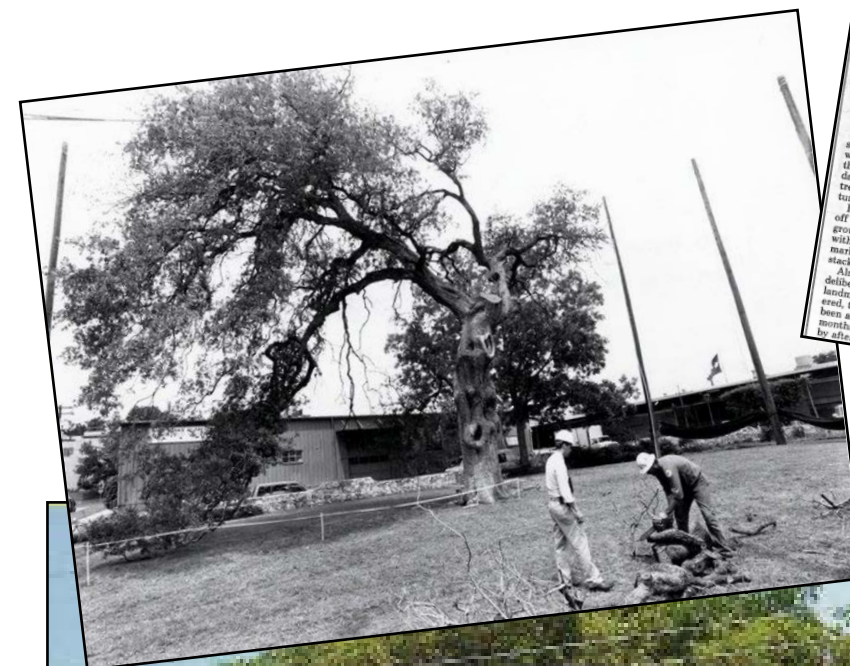
on the side of the tree that had lost its canopy. The thinking was that perhaps it would shade the root system on this most damaged (south) side of the tree and perhaps graft onto it and nourish its mama. That two inch baby has now grown into a fat 28 year-old, about 18 inches in diameter. It is badly squirrel-damaged, and the Treaty Oak has almost completely restored its canopy on this side, and its branches sit firmly atop the "nurse tree". We provided some sorely needed separation between the two (off the baby) and thinned it quite a bit. We also performed some reduction on part of a nearby pecan to improve light to the Treaty Oak.



At the end of the day, the old girl looked better than she had in 30 years.

One aspect of interest was whether or not the dozens of limbs that have cascaded back to the ground and have now been sitting there for a decade or longer, some of them six inches in diameter and mostly buried, had rooted. We lifted at least five of the larger ones, and found absolutely no rooting had taken place. So noted.

In all, we had nine climbers in the trees, seven of them I.S.A. Certified Arborists, with at least four more "supervisors" on the ground plus a clean-up crew. My thanks to all who took time away from their businesses to make this project a success: from Full Canopy Tree Care – climber Sean Frasl; from Heritage Tree Care – owner Vincent DeBrock, climbers Oscar Marquez and Nick Arthur, ground support Jake Mitchell; from Just Trees – owner Markus Smith and climber Pablo Perez; from They Might be



Monkeys – owner Nevic Donnelly, and climbers Rachel Brewster and Zach Anthony; and finally, Consulting Arborist Don Gardner. From the City of Austin we had Keith Babberney climbing and Kirsten Schneider coordinating the project, and a great clean-up crew from PARD. Thanks to the chapter for providing a tasty lunch for all.

This project was initiated by John Giedraitis, who was Austin’s city forester at the time of the poisoning, and whose personal life is as interwoven with the Treaty Oak as any of its branches.

My thanks to John for setting this up and asking me to be the lead arborist on this project.



I really see a difference in our employees who have become CTSPs. They became more involved in the creation, implementation and adherence of our safety policies and the ANSI standards. I think the program helps develop a culture of safe thinking; and that helps me sleep at night!”
— Bill Miller, Buckley Tree Service

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Mar 24 - 25 Chicago, IL	Apr 22 - 23 Arcadia, CA	Aug 19 - 20 Vacaville, CA

Call **800.733.2622** or visit **TCIA.ORG/CTSP** to learn more about **CTSP** or to **ENROLL**.

Houston Roots and Shoots

Taking aim at expanding our urban canopy were the 150+ participants of the 11th annual Roots & Shoots Sporting Clays Classic benefiting Trees For Houston. Held on Friday, October 18 at the Greater Houston Sports Club, this year's event raised \$131,000 in support of Trees For Houston's effort to grow, plant, and maintain trees across our region. The organization operates four nurseries which grow 20,000+ trees annually, shares technical planting advice and promotes the role of environmental steward in our community. Through their educational efforts, they engage 1,800+ volunteers in plantings and maintenance initiatives at 100+ sites annually.

Co-chairs for this year's event are Patrick Elkins, Russell Hamman, John Kirksey, Jr., David Ott, and Matt Van Wie. The event began with build your own breakfast tacos provided by Snooze, an AM Eatery. Guests then headed off to the stations and participated in a flurry competition. While on the course, shooters could participate in the Green Clay game – where each hit target scored the participant a prize ticket. While the scores were being tallied, guests enjoyed lunch by Ragin Cajun and beer donated by Faust Distributing. Centerpieces of small native trees were taken home by participants. Raffle tickets for a Beretta Gun, Big Green Egg, a Dove Hunt, and sporting event tickets were sold. Green Clay prizes included ice chests, hunting supplies, gift cards, and more. 🍀

Taking home the High Overall Award was Team Cleary Construction with a score of 257 out of 288. With a score of 79 out of 100, the Flurry Competition winner was Team Kirksey Architecture. High scoring male shooter was David Haynes with a score of 74 out of 78. Sponsors for the event include Joe Cleary, Cleary Construction, John T. Young, Jr. of Conway MacKenzie, FloodBreak LLC, Bill Van Wie, Patrick Elkins, Russell Hamman, John Kirksey, Jr.



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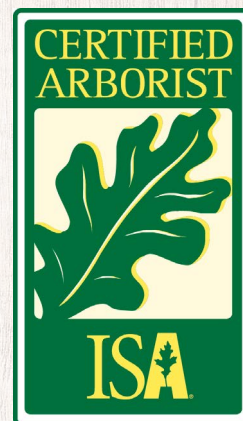
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WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?



We've had some pretty challenging ID quizzes this year. Do you remember these?

Answers:
A: Western Soapberry
B: Chihuahuas Spruce
C: Water Elm
D: Harry Lauder's
Walking Stick