

# In the Shade

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER**  
**OCTOBER 2020**







# Outgoing President's Letter

Well ISA Texas it has been a true pleasure and honor to lead the Chapter over this past year. Although we had some major hurdles that we've never experienced before, I am grateful for the support and drive that the board and staff has given throughout these unforeseen times.

During the Bastrop County Complex Fire, I personally realized that there was a silver lining in everything. Whether it's a natural disaster, a personal issue, or a global pandemic, there's always a way to persevere and overcome the odds.

In 2020, ISA Texas continued training opportunities for our members, some online and some held in person. We also developed and adopted a strategic membership plan

that will help us retain and recruit members. Additionally, this plan also helped us discover areas that we needed to address. Lastly, we completed a majority of our goals that were identified in our strategic plan that was prioritized during our yearly retreat last December.

Thanks to all that have been involved this year and thank you all for your patience. If you didn't have a chance to attend this year's first virtual Texas Tree Conference I hope you have an opportunity to attend the conference in 2021, which I anticipate will be in person.

Sincerely,

Jason Alfaro  
ISA Texas President 2019-2020



## In the Shade

is published six times a year by the Texas Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture.

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*Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.*

—Abraham Lincoln

## ON THE COVER

Texas Fall elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*) lives up to its name, producing fruit in the fall and being a reliable color changer. This spreading specimen is preparing for its fall color change.

# TREES

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## Incoming President's Letter

September 17, 2020

Hello ISA Texas Members,

I want to start off by expressing my sincere appreciation and excitement for the opportunity to serve as President of the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture over the next year. It is an honor to have my name alongside all the organization's Past Presidents. I am committed to the future growth and success of ISA Texas and hope that I will be able to meet everyone's expectations.

A very heartfelt thank you to Mr. Jason Alfaro for his leadership over the past year. I look forward to working under his guidance over the upcoming months. Jason, along with the entire ISA Texas Board of Directors have done a phenomenal job under some very challenging circumstances to keep the momentum going throughout this awful COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone had to redefine what was once thought of as normal operating procedure. What have we done in the past, what can we do now, what should we do now, how can we do that now, is there a way to practice this new model now are all questions that had to be answered and answered in a very limited amount of

time. All while doing the very same thing in our personal and professional lives. It is truly amazing what a group of volunteers committed to a common goal can accomplish when they work together and share resources.

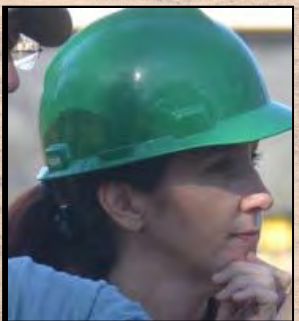
Additionally, our organization is extremely blessed to have the support of our Executive Director, Mr. John Giedraitis, our Member Services Specialist, Mrs. Misti Perez and our Program Manager, Mr. Gene Gehring. The dedication to the ongoing success of our organization exhibited by John and his team is unprecedented. Having the opportunity to work with individuals that are as passionate about what they do as these three are is very inspiring and a rare honor in today's world. Thank you for all you do for ISA Texas!

Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you, the members of ISA Texas. I will do my best to represent our organization well and please, if there is anything I can do for you to make your experience as a ISA Texas Chapter member better, do not hesitate to give me call or send me an email. My door is always open.

Sincerely,

A.J. Thibodeaux

## Editor's Note



Well folks, after five years I'm turning over the reins. I'm not leaving the Chapter board, you'll have to put up with me for four more years. Like most people joining the board, I came in with a goal to prove myself and to help improve the Chapter.

I feel like we're definitely moving in the right direction, although I don't think I can take the credit.

I'm looking forward to seeing the changes and improvements Heather makes in the newsletter. I want

to send a sincere thank you to all the members who have contributed pictures, articles and ideas during my tenure. I hope you will all continue to give Heather your full support. Putting together the newsletter is a lot more work than you'd imagine, especially in months where nothing much is happening.

Remember, if you're interested in being involved in the Chapter, volunteer to serve on a committee. We always need help, plus it's a great way to help steer the direction of the organization.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Johnson



## Incoming Editor's Note

ISA Texas Greetings! As we start winding down this "wild and woolly" year, I'm

honored to be your new Editor. I'm a self-proclaimed "tree nerd"—I've been in the field for 20 years now (but, I've really been "playing in the dirt" my entire life).

I started out with an undergraduate degree in Horticulture and later obtained a graduate degree in Literature. I currently work as the City Arborist for the City of League City, and I teach writing at the local community college. Now, I get to combine my two favorite things—trees and writing!

The Plant Kingdom has been "talking" to us already. Here in the Houston area, I noticed the poison ivy leaves turning red the third week of

August! Hopefully, this means an early Fall (\*fingers crossed\*); I made sure not to make direct eye contact with the poison ivy plant for more than 3 seconds—yikes! I'm looking forward to an exciting year of reading stories and articles about trees (and tree accessories—ha ha!) Please feel free to reach out to me at:

[heather.mcknight@leaguecitytx.gov](mailto:heather.mcknight@leaguecitytx.gov)

Sincerely,

Heather McKnight



## Response to In the Shade Editor's Note by Rebecca Johnson, VP Elect for ISA Texas

Thank you for sharing your time and expertise with ISA Texas and the industry. Congratulations on your role as Vice President elect of ISA Texas. People such as yourself are an integral part of what continues to propel our industry. I appreciated your response to the cancellation of the Texas Tree Climbing Championship, thereby the Women's Tree Climbing Workshop. I am not a writer of articles or practiced as an editor's note respondent. I am, however, a partner, a financial manager, and a business administrator who is very proud to be a part of the efforts of both men and women in our company and industry, in all facets of the tree care business.

I feel I can relate to much of what you wrote since I am also a woman. I have worked in the industry for almost 20 years.

In the last two paragraphs, your editor's note began commentary on

some highly charged subjects such as sexual harassment and sexism. I felt you may have moved off your original point and intent. It was a positive tribute to the cancelled event that became suddenly uncomfortable and off subject to your tribute. I am not sure if it was intended or not.

The subjects you indirectly addressed are not only highly charged, but also complicated. I am sorry to hear it appears you may have been exposed to certain ethical breaches, either at home, in a public space, or at work. At workplaces and schools when the subject of sexual harassment or sexism becomes an actual behavior by a perpetrator (can be male or female), the victim (can be male or female) is federally (and by state) protected under Title VII if the Civil Rights Act for both sexual harassment and sexism. These laws are enforced by the EEOC. Not to go unmentioned, society and workplaces have deemed

such behaviors as highly unprofessional and unacceptable. These behaviors should be addressed by employers before they occur, and definitively reported by employees at the time of occurrence. Having said this, my hope would be that the great men and women in our industry know that if they experience such a breach, or see something, then say something, immediately (any reputable employer will take swift action). And I hope the great women who participate in the workshop can take some solace, relax, be thankful for the event, the companionship of other professional women, and really enjoy the climbing at their next event.

Many coalitions of women projects in our industry are supported and approved for budget with equal energy by both men and women. This fact should assure their (female climbers) support of more women entering the tree care industry and working in areas historically held by men. Please feel free to reach out anytime.

Sincerely,

Pauline M. Perry  
CFO, Co-Owner

[paulinep@preservationtree.com](mailto:paulinep@preservationtree.com)



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## NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Baker ..... Kirbyville  
 Ryan Bass ..... Bulverde  
 Alison Baylis ..... Austin  
 Kevin Bean ..... San Antonio  
 Karen Beaty ..... Austin  
 Brian Blades ..... Houston  
 Michael Bridges ..... Aubrey  
 Deborah Brige ..... Richmond  
 Stephen Brueggerhoff ..... Angleton  
 David Crockett ..... Cross Plains  
 Joshua DuBois ..... Friendswood  
 Jared Farley ..... Richardson  
 Ted Farthing ..... San Antonio  
 Erek Flynn ..... Cedar Park  
 Tony Forshage ..... San Antonio  
 David Graf ..... Iowa Park  
 Ryan Hampton ..... Whitewright  
 Ryan Harbert ..... Dallas  
 Melanie Hardy ..... Grand Prairie  
 Matt Hicks ..... Deer Park  
 Russell Hooper ..... Seagoville  
 Eric Howard ..... Dallas  
 James Hudson ..... Garland  
 William Humphrey ..... Corinth  
 Bradley Kuehn ..... Hewitt  
 Michael Kuykendall ..... Dallas  
 Manuel Lopez ..... Deer Park  
 Jeremy Lowe ..... Denison  
 Emily Merlo ..... Mcallen  
 Joshua Morales ..... Austin  
 Linda Morrison ..... Seguin  
 Jesse Oaks ..... Copperas Cove  
 Lance Roberson ..... Georgetown  
 Jose Rojas ..... Allen  
 Judith Rozelle ..... Cypress  
 Nolan Russell ..... Richardson  
 Robert Swanson ..... Sandy Springs, GA  
 Kelly Test ..... Dallas  
 Dustin Thibodeaux ..... Austin  
 James Thompson ..... Garland  
 Mark Walter ..... Midland  
 Joseph Williams ..... Valley Mills



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## Website Has Latest COVID-19 Information

*Go to the ISA Texas Chapter website to get the latest update on how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting tree care in Texas.*

- Workshop info,
- Certification updates,
- Online learning links,
- Business tips and more!

<https://isatexas.com/covid-19-updates/>



## UPCOMING CERTIFICATION EXAMS

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*– Pat, Arborist*

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*– Josh & Joe, Arborist*



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## Member Spotlight: Emsud Horozović

### Why did you decide to join the Texas Chapter ISA?

I moved to Austin in December of 1993 from Bosnia and started volunteering for Austin Forestry in the summer of 1994. I began working there as a temporary employee in December 1994.

Austin was a tough place to get your foot in and everywhere I went they mentioned the Arborist certification and Forestry Conference. I went to my first conference in 1994 and loved it. Since then I rarely miss it. I became a Certified Arborist in 1999. I really decided to join because of the people that are members of the Chapter, they are some of the nicest people in the world and passionate about important work they do to serve our communities.

### What is something you love most about our industry and / or feel is very valuable?

Camaraderie, networking and friendships is what I feel is most valuable in our Chapter and our industry. As urbanization of the world has overtaken open land, I feel that urban forestry, arboriculture and parks are the only connection humans have with nature and the natural world any more. What I love about our industry is the great collection of awesome people that are really down to earth and passionate about what they do. They do very valuable work in a world that is more difficult, where literally every good tree and every good person matters and needs to be treasured.

### Share a favorite hobby many people may not know about you or a fun fact.

Most people know I can say wrong things in several languages. As far as hobbies, international travel is my favorite pastime. I enjoy seeing places and spaces before they are no longer the same. I have been fortunate to fulfill my childhood dream to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, to go on safari in the Serengeti and hug majestic baobab trees in Tarangire NP. I've been lucky to visit many remote areas of the world including Patagonia, South America, Asia, and Africa. I have great friends that I travel with and that encouraged me to see the world before I get too old. Now with travel restrictions and stay home orders that resonates more than ever, to go do things when you can and while you can.

In recent years I have run marathons and half marathons and even participated in Texas Tri Series one year at Sprint triathlons' after listening to Chapter members Mark Bird and Keith Martin talking about them at the tree conference in Crickets one night.

I look forward to years of work and fun, post-COVID, in our unusual profession, and I'm curious to see what the next two decades will bring in our green industry and world.

*Photo: Tree hugging at Tarangire NP Tanzania*



## Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture

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#### Chapter member benefits include:

**Publications:** In The Shade quarterly newsletter

**Email Update:** TreEmail sent monthly

**Networking and Promotional Opportunities:** Texas Tree Conference held annually

**Discounts:** Discounts on Texas Chapter seminars, workshops, and conferences

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**Publications:** Arborist News, Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, Online access to ISA Today and other ISA newsletters

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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](http://www.isatexas.com)



### 2020 Hyland R. Johns Grant



#### Andy Kaufman, PhD

University of Hawaii

*"Building Urban Tree Resiliency by Mitigating Below Ground Infrastructure Techniques"*

### 2019 John Z. Duling Grant



#### Brian Kane, PhD

University of Massachusetts - Amherst

*"Comparing the efficacy of pull tests versus expert opinion when assessing decay and likelihood of tree failure"*

### 2020 Sponsored Grant



#### Carolyn G. Mahan, PhD

Penn State Altoona

*"Long term effects of electrical right-of-way vegetation management on floral and faunal communities"*

Note: This project is sponsored by Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC; Corvea Agriscience (Agriculture Division of DowDuPont); FirstEnergy Corp; and PECO Energy Company (an Exelon Company).

### 2020 Utility Arborist Research Fund Grant



#### Gregory A. Dahle, PhD

West Virginia University

*"Tree caused outages and relationship to stream and soil type"*

## 2019-2020 TREE FUND Research Awards

### 2019 Jack Kimmel International Grants

(co-sponsored with Canadian TREE Fund)

#### Andrew Allen Millward, PhD

Ryerson University

*"Advancing non-invasive tree root detection by creating a training data set of GPR tree root signatures"*



#### Fahad Rasheed, PhD

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan

*"Contributing for a breathable future: Characterizing the efficiency of local tree species for controlling particulate matter in Faisalabad district"*



### 2019 Safe Arborist Techniques Fund

#### Matt Follett

University of Quebec at Montreal

*"Evaluation of load distribution in removal operations: a comparison of techniques and equipment"*



### 2019 Bob Skiera Memorial Fund Grant

#### Jason S. Gordon, PhD

University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.

*"Engaging underserved populations in community tree management activities"*



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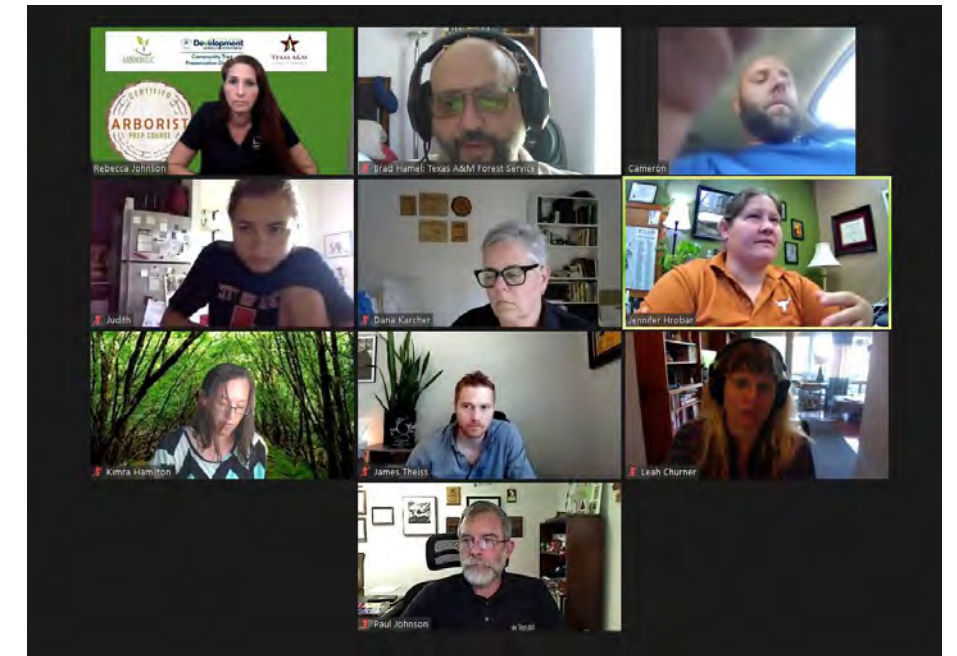


## TFS Partners in First Virtual Certified Arborist Prep Course in Texas

Brad Hamel, Central Texas Regional  
Urban Forester, Texas A&M  
Forest Service

The Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture has been growing rapidly over the last 10 years and the demand for Certified Arborist training has grown in kind. Paul Johnson, Program Leader for the Community Forestry Program for TFS, helped to establish the first CA Prep course in San Antonio during his time as Regional Community Forester for the Alamo Region. The Central Texas Regional Community Forester, Brad Hamel, partnered with the City of Austin and TreeFolks in 2015 to establish the first CA Prep course in the Hill Country region. Since then Austin has hosted one to two courses each year. The format follows the CA Prep course study guide which is divided into 16 subjects; the format for classes typically follows four subjects a day at 90 minutes for each broken up over four weeks.

Fast forward to 2020 and the partners, Rebecca Johnson of Arborholic LLC, Margaret Valenti from the City of Austin, and Brad Hamel of TFS, met in February to begin planning the Spring 2020 course to start in April. As you may have guessed, COVID-19 showed up so the class was postponed. Everyone started transitioning to video calling, and the partners realized that they could move the CA Prep course to a virtual platform. After a lot of planning and testing, they settled on Zoom and classes were scheduled for the first four Mondays in August. The cadre of speakers, typically limited to local Certified Arborists, expanded to include professionals from out of state and the class reached its normal student capacity of 30 people with ease.



The virtual CA Prep course was a great success. The chat function was terrific for Q&A opportunities during the presentation. To address additional questions, the planning committee added a one hour Q&A lunch session on Fridays. This was a great opportunity to address detailed questions from students.



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## What to Do with Your COVID Time

*Being in quarantine can have its challenges but also some rewards. See some of the creative uses of "COVID Time" from our arborist community ...*

"I've been juggling working for ISA Texas and occupying my four year old simultaneously! I also switch over to tree consulting, wife, pet owner and back to ISA Texas all in a day! There have been no days of boredom or lack of things to do; what is "down time?"

— Misti Perez, ISA Texas Member Services Specialist





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## New Board of Directors Members:

### ISA TEXAS

#### Officer Positions

##### President (One-year term):

###### A.J. Thibodeaux

A.J. currently serves as President-Elect and is a veteran to the tree care industry with more than 35 years of experience. He has been certified as an Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture since 1993, the first year it was made available in Texas. He has held a Texas Oak Wilt Certification (TOWC-0113) since 2007 and is now Texas Oak Wilt Qualified. He spent 12 years working as a utility arborist for different utility line clearance tree trimming companies before advancing to working for several residential and commercial tree care companies. A.J. was a charter member of the Texas Vegetation Management Association in 1992. He also served 8 years on the board of directors for the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture in the early 1990's. A.J. is the CEO and CO-Owner of Preservation Tree Service, Inc. based in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

##### President-Elect (One-year term):

###### Mark Bird

Mark was the 2018 Texas Chapter ISA Arborist of the Year and is an active member of ISA Texas and the San Antonio Arborist Association. Mark is this year's ISA Texas Education Chair and co-led the 2019 TTCC Kids' Climb at the Texas Tree Climbing Championship and was the leader of the 2017 ISA Texas Hurricane Harvey Recovery Day of Service in Rockport. Mark is the City Arborist of San Antonio and works to preserve the great tree heritage of the city.

##### Vice President (One-year term):

###### Rebecca Johnson

Rebecca Johnson is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist and a true arborholic. She is addicted to helping trees and the people who care for them. Rebecca regularly provides education to fellow



A.J. Thibodeaux



Mark Bird



Rebecca Johnson



Heather McKnight

arborists and the public. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Texas Chapter of ISA since 2015, edits the Texas ISA newsletter, and is a private consulting arborist. She holds a degree in Forestry from Oklahoma State University.

##### Editor (One-year term): Heather McKnight

Heather's education and experience combines her two passions: Horticulture/Arboriculture and Literature. She has been in the Horticulture field for 20 years (graduated with a B.S. in Horticulture in 2000), with experience in both the private sector and the public sector. She currently works as the City Arborist for the City of League City. She obtained and maintains the following certifications: Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA)—Texas Certified Landscape Professional (TCLP #606) since 2007; International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)—Certified Arborist and Municipal Specialist (#TX-3681AM) since 2009 and 2017. In addition, she holds a degree in English/Writing (M.A. in Literature—2007) and currently teaches writing at a local community college (Adjunct Professor since 2008).

##### Treasurer (One-year term): Neil Manich

Neil has served on the board for the last few years and is interested in filling the Treasurer position to stay involved and learn a new role.

##### Certification Liaison (remainder of a three-year term): Jesse Neumann

Jesse is a Forester in his eighth year with the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Program. While the majority of Jesse's arboricultural career has been municipal, he has also worked on many commercial crews in the Midwest and central Texas. Jesse has also been a Certified Arborist since 2011, and has since earned his Municipal Specialist, TRAQ, and TCIA CTSP certifications; his Urban Forestry BS came from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in 2009. After attending many state, a few national, and one international tree climbing competition, Jesse competed for the first time in 2019 at Georgetown, TX.





When not managing parks staff or doing his own tree work, Jesse enjoys riding bicycles and tinkering with computer hardware. After a solid decade of being supported by ISA and especially ISAT, Jesse is looking forward to giving back to the organization.

**Board of Directors**  
(3 Categories – 3-yr terms)

**Commercial Arboriculture:**  
**Amy Heath**

Amy Heath was the first woman to become a Board Certified Master Arborist in Texas and is the owner of a Dallas-area residential and commercial tree service. Amy is committed to supporting community engagement and education about how best to care for our urban forest. She has served on the board of the Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council and supports the work of Saluting Branches, ReTREET, and other organizations dedicated to local and worldwide reforestation and preservation. Amy looks forward to bringing her ideas and energy to the ISA Texas Chapter Board.

**Utility Arboriculture Beth Corbin**

Beth is a leader in the industry recently. She has a varied work experience within the industry. Starting as a contractor and working her way onto a staff position within AEP's Transmission Forestry Program. Recently she was offered the position of distribution forestry supervisor for the SWEPCO region. She is professional and knowledgeable with a firm desire to help the industry grow its knowledge and professionalism.



Jesse Neumann

**State/Local Government**  
**Arboriculture: Priscilla Files**

I would like to continue the work that I am doing on the Membership Committee and continue to support other activities of the Board of Directors and ISA Texas. As a member of the Board of Directors, I can facilitate communication between the Board and TUFNN (Texas Urban Forestry Nonprofit Network), an informal group of nonprofit tree organizations. I look forward to three more years on the Board of Directors. I have been a resident of Galveston since May of 2010, and I am the Executive Director of the Galveston Island Tree Conservancy, a nonprofit tree planting organization that's planted or distributed almost 20,000 trees since Hurricane Ike. I am an ISA Certified Arborist with a B.S. and M.S. in Horticulture from Texas

A&M University. I have worked for Extension Horticulture at the TAMU Horticultural Gardens and for The University of Arizona's Controlled Environment Agriculture Center in Tucson. I've been on the ISA Texas Board for three years, the Houston Area Urban Forestry Board for as long as I can remember, the Board of Clean Galveston and is a newly appointed (temporary?) board member of Galveston's Own Farmers Market.

**Haywood Morgan**

Haywood received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Forestry from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He has also studied Landscaping Design at the master level at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois and is a graduate of the 2020 Municipal Forestry Institute. He has 21 years of experience in Urban Forestry working for municipal governments, 10 years with the City of Kansas City, Missouri and 5 years with the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and is currently the Urban Forester for Denton Texas where he also served 4 years on the Board of Directors of Keep Denton Beautiful. During his career he has challenged the status quo when needed, to improve organizations he has worked for or been affiliated with. Haywood feels his experience with the City of Kansas City, Missouri, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Denton, Texas and Keep Denton Beautiful has prepared him to be a positive contributor to the ISA Texas Board of Directors.



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The Right Way to Treat a Tree



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| Anthracnose                            | Crabapple Scab            | Oak Wilt Disease          | Winter and Brown Tail Moths | Fertilizer                | Micronutrient Deficiencies              | Scolytid Beetles |
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## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?



### CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS TEXAS 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 next issue.

Hint: This tree could be an enchanting gift for your Valentine.

### LAST MONTH'S TREE ID



Last issue's winner was David Richardson, Landscape Foreman, UTSouthwestern Medical Center Dallas who correctly identified *Quercus intricata*, Coahuila shrub oak and supplied this issue's challenge.