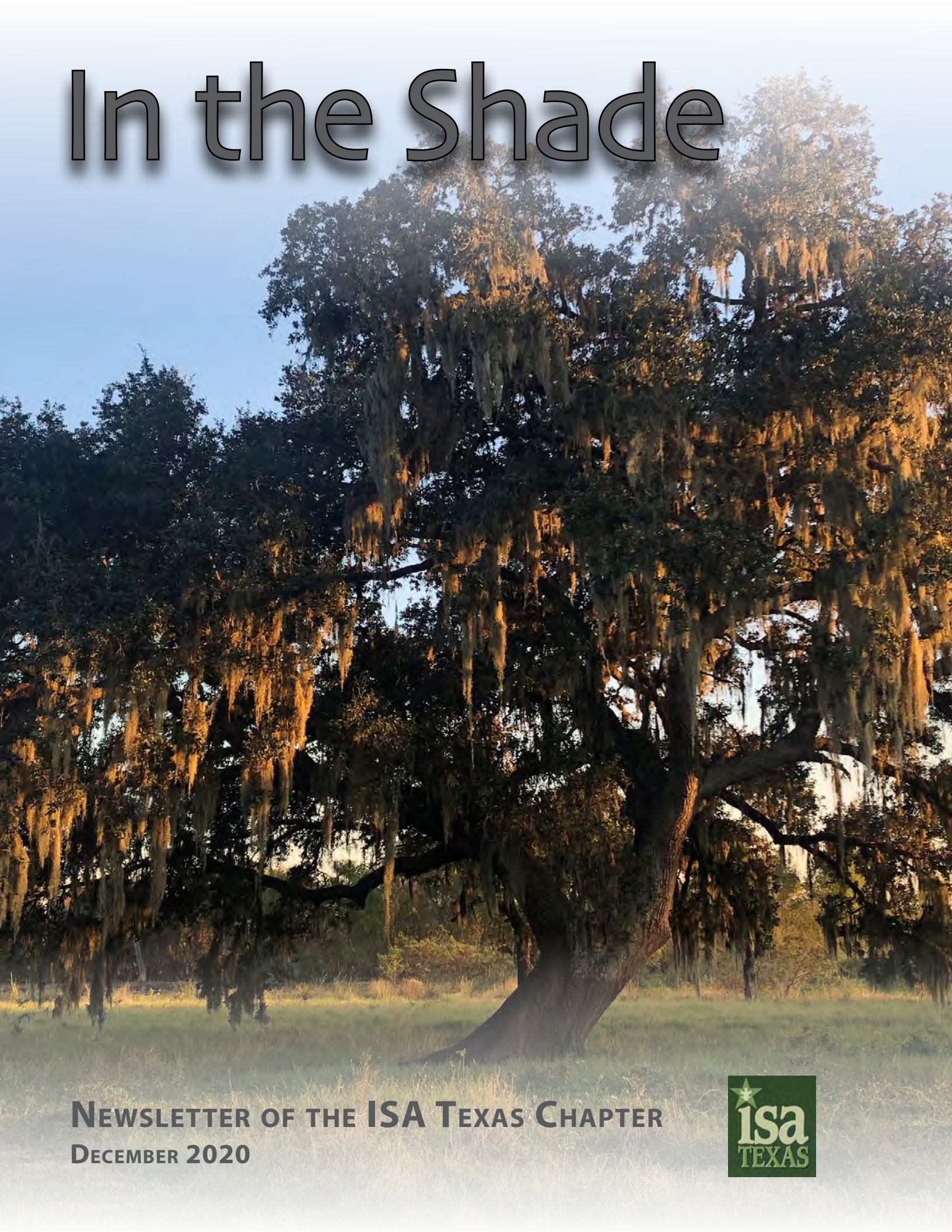


In the Shade



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
DECEMBER 2020





President's Letter

November 12, 2020

Hello ISA Texas members,

December brings a whole new level of busy for most of us. Businesses trying to wrap up 2020 and making plans and budgets for the coming new year, holiday plans and family commitments and still dealing with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic can have us all running in many directions at one time. With all these commitments, know that your Texas Chapter ISA Staff, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Volunteers are still working hard to provide our membership with the services you expect.

By the time you read this, we will have completed our first ever Virtual Texas Tree Conference and Academy. The support for this event exceeded all my expectations with 405 registered Conference attendees and 368 registered Academy attendees. I want the personally thank

everyone who attended for your continued support of our great organization and hope that the event met your full expectations.

Also, we will have completed our very first Virtual Board Retreat. As with everything this year, our traditional annual Board Retreat was changed to a virtual event and took place on November 19, 2020. The Board Retreat included a one-day virtual Board of Directors workshop and meeting to review our Strategic Plan and our 2020 work plan and our Strategic Membership Plan for the development of and adoption of our 2021 work plan. More about our 2021 work plan will be available for you to review on the Texas Chapter ISA website soon.

I wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday season and a happy new year.

Best Regards,

A.J. Thibodeaux

In the Shade

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December 2020

Vol. 44, No. 4

*“And into the forest I go to lose
my mind and find my soul.”*

—John Muir

ON THE COVER

This magnificent Live Oak greets hikers at Brazos Bend State Park. The photograph was taken in late afternoon—notice how the Spanish Moss glows in the light of the setting sun!

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– Nick Palladino, Lucas Tree Experts

Virtual Workshop Dates:

December 15, 2020

January 26, 2021

February 18, 2021

March 11, 2021

March 30, 2021

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Editor's Note



Greetings, fellow Tree People! Welcome to my first "official" issue of In the Shade newsletter. First of all, I'd like to thank Rebecca Johnson for her guidance and

her patience as I ask 20-bazillion questions (that's an exact number, by the way) about the process. I'm looking forward to serving the Texas Chapter in this capacity; hopefully, I can "do you proud."

Despite the fact that almost everything has been "virtual," this issue is action-packed with all kinds of goodies; check out the Texas Arbor Day celebration on page 15, the (Virtual) Texas Tree Conference on page 18, and the Texas Community Forestry Awards on page 13. Congratulations to the award recipients! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue (and made my job easier). I enjoyed reading your articles and insights on the (Virtual) Texas Tree Conference and other events... and looking at the photographs, of course. Please reach out to me if you'd like to contribute to future issues—we'd love to hear from you!

As the trees prepare for the dormant season, we can take our cue from them. It has been such an eventful year! Whew—time to take a step back, take a deep breath, celebrate our tree-related accomplishments for 2020, and plan for our 2021 "growing season." (Winter is also a great time to go sit in the forest for a bit of "forest bathing." I'm always amazed at how silent and peaceful it is during the winter—truly a time for reflection.)

Sincerely,
Heather McKnight



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- **Publications:** In The Shade, a bi-monthly printed newsletter
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| Joseph Brown..... | Killeen |
| Brock Butler | Arlington |
| Ryan Cabrera..... | Cedar Hill |
| P.J. Cardenas..... | Seguin |
| Jim Casey | Allen |
| Leah Churner..... | Austin |
| Cynthia Crump | Weatherford |
| Anthony Derrick | Farmers Branch |
| Henry Flowers | Brenham |
| Lloyd Green..... | Hickory Creek |
| Jessica Harper | Oak Point |
| Eric Hollenbeck..... | Kingwood |
| Zach Jones | Spring |
| Joy Kinney | Dallas |
| Robert Kwiatkowski..... | San Antonio |
| Christopher Lewis..... | Fort Worth |
| Jennifer Lueckemeyer..... | Austin |
| Jose Meza | Austin |
| Austin Morrison..... | San Augustine |
| Peter Mullan..... | Austin |
| Dianna Muse..... | Pasadena |
| Buster Nowell..... | Dallas |
| Christopher Pack..... | Mineola |
| Adrien Patterson | San Antonio |
| Hayat Qurunful | San Marcos |
| Houston Richardson | Houston |
| Jonathon Rios..... | Whitewright |
| Clair Skinner | Frisco |
| Greg Taylor | Pasadena |
| Jamie Thibodeaux | Fort Worth |
| Pete Vento | Killeen |
| Jason Whatley | Dallas |
| Christopher Worst | Grand Prairie |

New Exam Guidelines

For in-person certification exams, ISA has issued new exam guidelines beginning May 15, 2020. All exam candidates will receive these in writing once enrolled in an exam. All in-person exams require a candidate to wear a face mask. A person without a mask will not be permitted to sit for the exam. The proctor and/or assistant will not be able to provide these for the test candidates. Gloves can be worn but are not mandatory and must be disposed of at the conclusion of the exam in front of the proctor. Hand sanitizer will be on site at the exam for all attendees.

For questions regarding in-person exam guidelines, please contact Misti Perez at misti@isatexas.com or Daniel Cottier, ISA Texas Certification Liaison at greenmanglobal@gmail.com or (214) 836-1646.

Select Pearson VUE testing centers offering computer based exams are open at 50% capacity as of May 1, 2020. Pearson Vue requires a face mask be worn while testing per local government requirements for operation during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are unable to provide testing services to those without a face mask and will not be supplying face masks to candidates. The situation is being closely monitored and the Texas Chapter will update here as we get information from ISA headquarters. Learn more at <https://isatexas.com/members/certification-and-traq/>

UPCOMING CERTIFICATION EXAMS

December 18, 2020
Dallas, TX
Check in 8:00 a.m.





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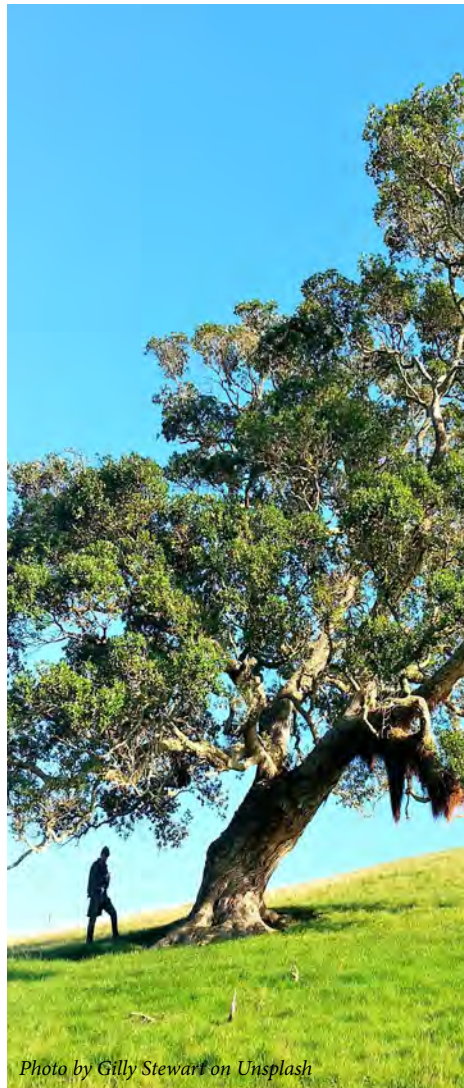
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Website Has Latest COVID-19 Information

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,
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- Business tips and more!

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



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- Pat, Arborist

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- Josh & Joe, Arborist

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2020's Different Tree Conference

The 2020 Texas Tree Conference was “different” to say the least. On behalf of the Texas ISA staff, I would like to thank everyone who helped to plan, implement, and participate in this year’s “Virtual Texas Tree Conference”. This year’s conference chair, A.J. Thibodeaux, did a “Treemendously fabulous job” (to quote Susan Henson). His calm, reasoned leadership was always in the best interests of the ISA Texas membership. The attendees particularly deserve our gratitude for their patience, faith, and participation in a process that was new and different.

I would like to thank the Texas Tree Conference Committee. They had another great lineup of speakers for our annual meeting in Waco. Then came the shutdowns. The question became, “how will COVID affect our conference that was still six months away?” With all the uncertainty, speakers were reluctant to commit. The planning committee decided to send a survey to past attendees asking if we should go virtual or hold the event in person. The results were just as mixed as the committee with roughly one third saying it should be live, one third saying it should be virtual, and one third being unsure. The committee moved forward with a plan to do both live and virtual. Every aspect of the conference was analyzed. The speaker lineup was pared to a single track. We made plans to meet fluid COVID guidelines; mailing badges, temperature checks for everyone, required masks, all seats at least 6 feet apart, cancelled the awards banquet, half the vendors on the trade show floor, etc. About six weeks before the scheduled date, we still did not have a firm commitment from Waco or the convention center, and the decision was made to go completely virtual.

Every year there are three subcommittees that select speakers for their respective commercial, municipal, or utility track. There is usually a mix of university researchers, company professionals, practitioners, or other experts. This year was no exception. When selecting speakers, ISA Texas does not make an explicit or implicit endorsement of any product or idea (like an injection system that uses plugs, or one that does not); nor does ISA Texas endorse the use of any specific trade name of chemicals. Always consider the speaker’s credentials and motivations when listening, whether you agree or disagree with the information being presented. In today’s world where everyone can become an expert with a few clicks on their phone, it is good to be aware of what information is available.

I would like to thank our speakers. It is difficult to present to a computer screen. It does not give any cues as to how you are coming across, neither laughing at your jokes nor nodding off. If you missed any of the Conference sessions or the Academy, they can be viewed at any time from the Texas Chapter ISA website: <https://isatexas.com>

Dr. Rich Hauer, University of Wisconsin; “Cost of Not Maintaining Trees – Growing Urban Forests & Sustainability” and “Healthy Trees Healthy People: Just What the Tree Ordered,” In his presentations, he provided research showing trees are an asset that should be properly managed.

Dr. John Ball, South Dakota State University; “The Incidental Line Clearance Arborist and the Line Clearance Arborist: Who Can Do What?” and “The Z133: Where Is It Headed?” Every arborist should be aware of the safety standards.

Dr. Christopher Fields-Johnson, Davey Institute; “Soil Management in Arboriculture,” He provided an overview of fertilizing and amended soils to improve tree vitality.

Skip Kincaid, Executive Director of the Southern Chapter of ISA; “Tree Risk and Arborist Responsibility,” Skip described a framework for arborists to become better skilled and gain confidence in performing tree risk assessment.

Professor Emily Landon, St. Mary’s University School of Law, “How to Grow Your Conflict Resolution Skills,” An expert in alternative dispute resolution, Ms. Landon advocated active listening and understanding the perspective of all sides in a dispute.

If you missed any of the Conference sessions or the Academy, they can be viewed at any time from the Texas Chapter ISA website: <https://isatexas.com>

Allen Smith, Texas A&M Forest Service, “Emerald Ash Borer and You,” Allen presented EAB in depth and looked at all aspects of the insect, including identification and its associated pitfalls.

Erik Lindberg, Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements, “EAB: To Treat or Not to Treat – That is the Question,” Erik presented several options and reasons to treat EAB.

Emmett Muennink, Arborjet, “Diagnosing and Managing Abiotic Disorders,” Emmett discussed drought, nutrient deficiencies, herbicide injury, and construction stress and gave practical approaches to diagnosing trees and implementing proper protocols.

David Dechant, Arboguard, (A Davey Tree Expert Company), “Trees and Construction: Building for Long Term Tree Survivability,” David gave practical options and advice on how to preserve/protect trees before/during construction by showing real world projects.

Dr. David Appel and Sheila McBride, Texas A&M University, “Texas Tree Academy, What’s Up Doc? Tree Diagnosis Workshop,” David and Sheila went above and beyond; not only did they present the standard power point presentations, but they also went into the field with a professional videographer to film signs/symptoms on various trees.

Right: Sheila McBride and Dr. David Appel at the “Tree Academy”

Below: Sheila McBride and Dr. David Appel take attendants out “in the field.”



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Texas Community Forestry Awards 2020

Every year, the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and Texas A&M Forest Service partner on recognizing the best of the best in the world of arboriculture and community forestry in Texas. Usually, we recognize our winners at the Texas Tree Conference in Waco. Being recognized in front of hundreds of our friends and colleagues is a special treat.

Unfortunately, this year we're all dealing with a global pandemic, and our awards committee decided the next best way to recognize these deserving recipients is to announce their awards during #TexasArborDay.

The award is a framed, limited-edition, remarked print of a famous Texas tree by artist Ronnie Wells out of Salado. We've tried to provide a high-quality award for high-quality recipients.

First, is our 2020 Outstanding Arbor Day Award. This award recognizes individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have promoted Arbor Day through special projects, ceremonies, news articles or observations with an Arbor Day theme.

The 2020 Outstanding Arbor Day Award goes to Keep Lewisville Beautiful Arbor Day Tree Plantings.

Keep Lewisville Beautiful and the City of Lewisville Parks Department work together each year to host outstanding Arbor Day activities by hosting public Arbor Day events and tree plantings that engage community volunteers. It is true that everything is bigger in Texas-, and especially in Lewisville where they celebrate TWO Arbor Day events annually that combine plantings with education and public awareness.

KLB hosts city-wide cleanup events where they partner with the parks department to plant trees for National



Above: Arbor Day tree plantings with TNMP volunteers; Lewisville

Below: Oak Wilt community outreach; Austin



Arbor Day in April and Texas Arbor Day in November. City officials read their annual Arbor Day proclamation on stage with a Tree City USA flag presentation to the audience. In addition, at each event their emcees also present tree facts and talking points, ending with a raffle to give away trees to be planted at volunteers' homes.

The audience is invited to help plant trees in a city park as part of their Arbor Day celebration. What makes these Arbor Day events special, is that they engage the community on a deeper level, by allowing volunteers to make a direct connection with a call to action to plant. Volunteers are engaged

with why trees are important, and then we take it a step further to get their hands dirty and plant trees in public spaces. This not only adds to the tree canopy, it creates a sense of ownership and community pride.

Next, is our 2020 Arboricultural Project of the Year. This award recognizes 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, organizations or communities.

The 2020 Arboriculture Project of the Year is "From Tree to Urban Forest Health – Austin's Urban Forest Health Program"

This project uses an innovative approach to manage forest health at the municipal level. By exploring new strategies, increasing public-private partnerships, and offering diverse education and outreach to the public, they are proactively managing the forest, not the trees.

Oak Wilt is best addressed at a neighborhood scale. Their approach has pivoted away from direct tree management with individual property owners. They're now focusing on partnerships that connect communities with qualified arborists.

Municipal managers are able to focus on the big picture of forest health while trees receive care at the local level. This project supports development of the arborist community including classes and workshops that help arborists earn industry credentials and refers community members to credentialed arborists

This approach leverages arborists' knowledge and skills by providing grant funding to community groups for neighborhood tree assessments. Neighborhood groups use the data collected to develop management goals for their community and the City uses

it to supplement oak wilt monitoring maps.

This project provides residents up-to-date information about proper tree care. It helps them organize their response to a tenacious disease, and it taps into local communication channels to help neighbors take ownership of their local urban forest and diversify their approach to managing their trees. This project moves away from impractical attempts to manage every tree in Austin in favor of facilitating connections between tree owners and qualified professionals. In a very significant way, this project allows us to proactively manage the forest, not the trees.

Our 2020 Award for Outstanding Landscape Improvement recognizes individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have made significant contributions through tree planting, care and landscaping which enhances environmental protection, conservation, beautification, energy conservation, or wildlife protection with significant impact over the years.

The 2020 Outstanding Landscape Improvement Award goes to The Heritage Park of Flower Mound.

Heritage Park of Flower Mound is an 82-acre Community Park that was built in four phases between 2012 and 2019. Heritage Park has become a family friendly hot spot for picnics, birthday parties, playgroups, family reunions, award winning outdoor education programs, classes, and special events.

The park has several miles of beautifully enhanced trails that meander through wooded areas, multiple wildflower preserves, native landscaping, and past bronze animal sculptures making patrons feel as if they were in a national forest. The Town was determined to make this the best park in the area by including major amenities for the community's enjoyment. An educational plaza was included to allow for interpretive signage allowing residents to learn about animals, plants, trees, birds and more native to the area.

Right:
Bronze animals "greet" visitors at
Heritage Park

Below:
Heritage Park, Flower Mound



Memorial and Town "tree farm" trees were planted with each phase of Heritage Park. Over a mile of multipurpose trail and the wildlife encounter trails were designed utilizing the existing deer paths and utility easements as to minimize the removal of trees. With its completion, Heritage Park now provides a wide array of outdoor recreational opportunities and activities to accommodate a variety of users.

Our Final award is for the 2020 Texas Arborist of the Year. This award recognizes an individual for their contributions to arboriculture and community forestry. Nominees are evaluated for their leadership, commitment, innovation, impact, and sustainability in our field.

The 2020 Texas Arborist of the Year is Susan Henson.

Susan is a long-time supporter of quality arboriculture and has promoted trees in the many job, teaching and leadership positions she has held in her community, region and Texas. Starting back in 1976, she worked on the City of Fort Worth landscape production crew and helped to establish the city's first tree nursery.

Susan recently retired from the City of Grand Prairie where she had worked since 1989, as their Arborist and Horticulturalist.

She managed the horticulture crew that grew, planted and maintained over 10,000 square feet of annual beds, municipal grounds, medians and ROW to include trees and shrubs. She also planted and maintained a tree and container nursery and transplanted the trees from the nursery throughout the city.

Susan has managed three Texas Arbor Day ceremonies. She completed the first tree inventory of Parks, Right of Ways and Medians in 1992, second in 2002 and recently a sample street tree inventory (included neighborhood areas) for EAB management. Her tree programs have won many awards including several Texas Community Forestry Awards.

Adding to Susan's lasting legacy will be her leadership including serving as President for:

- Trinity Blackland Urban Forestry Council
- Crosstimbers Urban Forestry Council



Right:
Susan Henson,
Texas Arborist of
the Year

Below:
Reading the Arbor
Day Proclamation,
Lewisville



- Texas Urban Forestry Council
- Grand Prairie Women's Club
- Business and Professional Women's Club Grand Prairie
- Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and others.



Susan's husband Mike jokes that "She has to be President!" To which Susan responds, "Lead, follow, or get out of the way!" Susan deserves this award for her lifetime of hands-on growing, planting and caring for trees, her mentoring and teaching students, and her leadership in her civic and tree organizations.

On behalf of the Texas Chapter of ISA and Texas A&M Forest Service, thank you for joining us in recognizing these deserving winners. Please give them a round of applause, comment in chat, or give them a quick phone call or tweet of congratulations. We hope to see a nomination from you or for you in 2021.



In a year like no other, Texans celebrate 2020 Arbor Day in Harker Heights, Texas – and beyond

Texans from across the state gathered on November 6, in the City of Harker Heights, to celebrate Texas Arbor Day and grow new Texas traditions.

Today's celebration supports part of the City's mission to educate and engage the community through excellent service delivery that protects health and promotes a sustainable environment. The celebration was also live streamed across Texas A&M Forest Service Facebook and YouTube pages – encouraging and highlighting other Arbor Day activities across the state.

The theme of the celebration was Growing Texas Traditions. The theme highlights the connection between trees, forests and people, and ties them into our deep Texas heritage. Traditions are about maintaining information, behaviors and customs handed down through generations. This Arbor Day, we encourage individuals, families and communities to establish some activities with the trees around them, and pass those activities to family, friends and future generations.

"True to its name, Arbor Day celebrates the preservation and planting of trees. Harker Heights has a tradition of planting trees in our parks. I was a Boy Scout, and I had a lot of interest in forestry and even thought about majoring in it in college. You can plant trees in your yard, at your school or place of business, or explore the community while on a neighborhood walk among the trees," said Harker Heights' Mayor Spencer Smith. "These new Texas Arbor Day traditions can bring you closer to the people and the trees around you."

The main stage celebration, held at Carl Levin Park, included a ceremony, tree awards and a tree planting. It also included a special recognition for an individual instrumental in elevating the importance of urban forests in Harker Heights.

"We celebrated the City's nine year anniversary as a Tree City USA today, and honored our former city manager, Steve Carpenter, for his contribution and foresight in seeing that Harker Heights received this special designation," said Harker Heights Activities Center Specialist Adam Trujillo.

On Arbor Day, we emphasize the importance of conserving and managing our urban tree canopy specifically to positively affect the health and resiliency of the community.





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Member Spotlight: Rene Piña

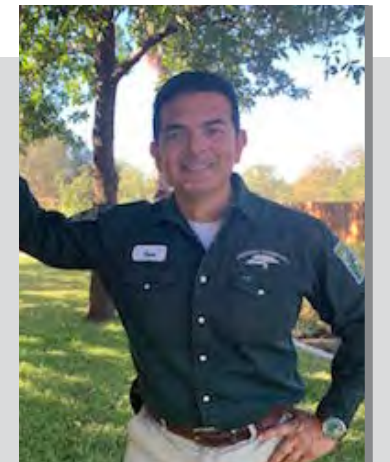
Rene Piña is the owner and CEO of Artistic Trees, Inc. in San Antonio, TX. During his 31 years of work in the industry, Mr. Piña has been a longtime member of the ISA Texas Chapter, a Certified Arborist since 2010, the former City Arborist of Helotes, and has become Oak Wilt Certified and Tree Risk Assessment Qualified. Rene and his loving wife, Frances, have been happily married for 31 years and have two wonderful children, Nicholas and Kathryn.

Why did you decide to join the Texas Chapter ISA?

I joined the ISA Texas chapter because I wanted to be part of a community that shares my same love for trees. Since joining, I have made many great friends across the state of Texas and learned how to refine my trade. Every year, I look forward to attending our Texas ISA conference where I can meet more arborists and network with other professionals in the industry. I also enjoy partaking in the classes that are offered during these conventions, particularly, “The Incidental Line Clearance Arborist and the Line-Clearance Arborist” session that was presented this year. The certification trainings and accessibility of information that come with membership has helped my business grow exponentially and continues to offer opportunities for professional development.

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

I love that our industry gives us the ability to create art by enhancing the natural beauty that trees already have. Each job is like a new canvas waiting to become a masterpiece. The best part is that I get to collaborate with clients and make their vision come to life. Nothing compares to the smiles on their faces and satisfaction of a job well done.



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

One of my passions is building hot rod cars and trucks because it is another outlet for artistic expression. The lines and simple mechanics of the earlier automobiles combined with a modern flare make for an exciting hobby. My first project was rebuilding a 1927 Ford T Bucket Roadster with my son. It was a great bonding time for us, and we still take it out for rides every once in a while. My latest project is a 1939 Chevy Pickup Street Rod. I can't wait to drive that one to job sites! I also enjoy traveling with my family, and we have had many adventures around the world.

Continued from page 15

According to Paul Johnson, Texas A&M Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program Leader, the City of Harker Heights was selected as this year’s host city for their excellence in community forestry. City departments joined forces to amplify the importance of trees in their community through the power of education, sustainability and instilling new traditions involving trees.

President-Elect of the International Society of Arboriculture Dana Karcher delivered the Arbor Day Keynote Address on the importance of small cities across the country, like Harker Heights, and their contributions to urban forestry.

The Great State of Texas is steeped in history, culture and tradition. This Arbor Day, in a year like no other, we encourage all Texas communities to celebrate trees and to grow some new Texas traditions. This is a

great opportunity for families to get out and learn about trees and how they protect and affect us.

Even if you missed today’s ceremony, Texas A&M Forest Service is making it easy for anyone, anywhere to participate in Arbor Day. We’ve provided tips online to help communities create a memorable Arbor Day, as well as educational activities for schools, groups and families to get outdoors and learn more about trees.

Please visit <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/arbor-day/> for ideas on how to host an Arbor Day ceremony. Here you can also find instructions on how to properly plant a tree and activities about the benefits of trees, tree parts and how to identify a tree by its leaves or structure – plus so much more.

You can also watch the ceremony on playback at [@texasforestservicetamu.edu/arbor-day/](http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/arbor-day/).

Virtual Texas Tree Conference Highlights

By Naomi Rotramel,
City Arborist—Community Tree
Preservation Division, Austin

The 40th Texas Tree Conference and Academy had an outstanding lineup of top speakers. Although we missed the in-person networking and socializing this year, the virtual conference presented valuable information to myself and the tree team here at the City of Austin. The event was spread out over several weeks and in blocks of time in the mornings. This proved to be a very efficient use of time in this age of many people working remotely. The diversity of topics provided something for everyone and kept me interested. I enjoyed every presentation equally and as someone who has attended conferences all over the country, I found this year's ISA presentations the most useful and pertinent to situations we encounter daily.

In the first session, Dr. Richard Hauer presented great evidence on the benefits of urban trees and green spaces directly linking it to public investments in tree care and the relationship between healthy trees and healthy people. This information is invaluable to both arborists in the public and private sectors and emphasized why our jobs are so important to communities across Texas.

The second session presented by Dr. John Ball was very important in reminding us all of safety issues in line clearance and first aid training. His later talk on Z133 standards and how they have evolved over the years and new changes we may see in 2020 was enlightening and covered the most common incidents and hazards the Z is attempting to modify, reduce or eliminate. The second session also included A300 Soil Management by Dr. Christopher Fields-Johnson. The information on soils and urban trees was



extremely useful for our team making decisions on tree survivability in urban environments.

Session three had two presenters, Skip Kincaid and Dr. Emily Landon. Skip spoke and provided conference attendees valuable insights and information on the importance of tree risk and arborist responsibility which I couldn't agree more. Our staff often requires tree risk assessments in the permitting process and Skip laid out the importance and excellent framework TRAQ provides in decision making. I especially appreciate Assistant Attorney General Emily Landon's session on Conflict Resolution. It was a timely reminder of what is within our control when many things are not. Dr. Landon presented us with invaluable information on conflict resolution and learning how to better deal with difficult people and gave us more resolution skills for situations we face daily.

Session four dealt with the menace we will all be dealing with shortly, Emerald Ash Borer. As someone who has seen the devastating effects of EAB across the mid-west and mid-Atlantic regions of the country, it was very important to include some of the top foresters in the country relaying the most up to date information. Allen Smith from the Texas A&M Forest Service gave an outstanding in-depth presentation on all aspects of EAB and the current status of the pest in Texas. Erik Lindberg with Rainbow Treecare Scientific provided us with the latest information on impacts,

treatment, and managing EAB.

The final session included very useful and practical approaches to diagnosing trees by Emmett Muennink. This was valuable information to my staff to diagnose and distinguish differences in disorders we see on construction sites including drought, nutrient deficiencies, and herbicide injuries.

The last presentation by David Dechant on Trees and Construction: **Building for Long Term Tree Survivability** was apropos to everyone on our team. We enjoyed it so much there was a separate email and chat between us during the presentation where everyone chimed in how awesome it was that Mr. Dechant addressed the vertical slope/layback issue and that he moves roads for trees! Since David's presentation, I've been able to use his words that our program is the only review and inspection team in our Department that responsible for keeping a living breathing organism alive during the entire construction process.

Finally, the Virtual Texas Tree Academy with Dr. David Appel and Shelia McBride from Texas A&M University was thoroughly enjoyable. I loved following along in the virtual tree tour and seeing how trees responded to insects and diseases as we toured Shelia's lab. I learned so much and can't wait for the next one!

Overall, I feel like all the sessions complimented my growth as an arborist and as a person. It was so nice to see familiar and new faces and I look forward to future conferences. A big thanks to all the folks at ISA Texas for putting on a fantastic conference and all the sponsors who made it possible!



Thanks for attending!

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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 produces blooms that look like golden gumballs.

This issue's challenge was provided by Heather McKnight.

LAST MONTH'S TREE ID



Winner of big idea: Juan Guerra, Senior Horticulturist for the City of San Antonio, City Center Development Office, River Walk Operations.

Tree was: Chisos Rosewood,
Vauquelinia corymbosa ssp.
angustifolia