

In the Shade

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
FEBRUARY 2021**





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President's Letter



Hello ISA Texas members,

Happy New Year ISA Texas! I trust that all had a well-deserved, relaxing, and SAFE break with family and friends over the holiday season. This time of year, I typically reflect on how fast the prior year has come to pass. However, I am not so sure that applies to 2020. For most of us, 2020 was a very long, challenging, and unprecedented year filled with uncertainty.

Amidst all the uncertainty the COVID-19 pandemic brought, we can be very proud of our accomplishments in 2020. ISA Texas reached several milestones and firsts in 2020.

- more than 5,000 email newsletter subscriptions
- an increase in the number of BCMA Arborist, Certified Arborist, Municipal Arborist, and Utility Arborist
- an increase in the number of Tree Risk Assessment Qualified Arborist, Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualified Arborist and Texas Oak Wilt Qualified Arborist
- first ever Virtual Texas Tree Conference and Academy
- second most profitable annual Texas Tree Conference to date.
- successfully recovered from a mid-year projected \$57,000.00 budget shortfall to a net gain of \$1,500.00

I could not be prouder of the work accomplished by our staff and committee members. Everyone went above and beyond the call of duty to make the absolute most of a very challenging year. And, it goes without saying that none of this could be

possible without the continued never-ending support from you, our ISA Texas members.

I am optimistic that 2021 will bring a much-improved status of, and hopefully an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. We can all keep our fingers crossed and pray that the newly developed vaccines will bring an end to the spread of this deadly disease and we can all go back to our “normal” lives.

I am very hopeful that we will be able to resume our in-person workshops and annual conference at some point this year. I know how important these networking opportunities are to you. Your Education Committee members and Conference Committee members are already working on bringing you another year filled with high-quality educational opportunities.

We always need more members willing to serve on our board, volunteer to help, with events and to provide content for our newsletter; so, please contact me or any of our staff or board members if you are interested in taking your ISA Texas membership to the next level. If any of you would like the board to address specific issues or concerns, please email me at ajt@preservationtree.com or contact our Executive Director, John Giedraitis, and we will bring them to the board on your behalf. I hope you have a productive and safe start to 2021, and thank you for your continued support of our great organization and industry.
Best Regards,
A.J. Thibodeaux



Life without
love is like a
tree without
blossoms or
fruit,”

— Khalil Gibran

On the Cover

Resurrection Fern (*Polypodium polypodioides*) and moss flourish at the base of this Live Oak.

Editor's Note



Greetings, fellow Tree People! As we ease into 2021 (and this year's first issue of "In The Shade"), we can begin to look forward to Spring. The "growing season"

will arrive at different times, depending on your part of the state, so keep your eyes open for those tiny clues—a small clump of green, fuzzy moss or tender, young tree buds. Here in the Gulf Coast region, the Paperwhites (*Narcissus spp.*) are putting on quite the Winter show and reminding us of the impending seasonal transition and warmer weather to follow.

As "tree world" and events continue to be mostly in a virtual setting, we're still rocking and rolling from 2020 into 2021 with the Board of Directors Retreat/ Meeting and the "What's Up, Doc?" Quiz Review and Quiz ; highlights from these events are included in this issue. Also, check out the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council Awards on page 14 (congrats to all the recipients), and the recent tree planting at West Library Grounds in Irving. Keep your "eyes peeled" for upcoming events (refer to the proposed schedule on page 12 for more details). Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue and to those out there reading it.

Although we still have some chilly winter days ahead, take time to enjoy those days when the sun feels so good shining down on you. And, as I always remind myself (on the coldest winter days)... "Enjoy the cold weather while you can. It won't be long before you're praying for a nice, cool breeze...and hoping for a 'cool front' (which, of course, is anything below 95 degrees—ha ha)."

Sincerely,
Heather McKnight



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- **Publications:** In The Shade, a bi-monthly printed newsletter
- **Email Update:** TreEmail, a monthly calendar of tree events and important tree news
- **Networking and Promotional Opportunities:** Texas Tree Conference, Texas Tree Climbing Championship, Arbor Day and other events
- **Discounts:** Discounts on Texas Chapter seminars, workshops, and conferences
- **Online Learning:** Monthly/bi-monthly educational webinars created by the Chapter

In the Shade

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Tree Diagnosis Quiz Review

Video workshop helps arborists ID disease.

By Gene Gehring, Education Program Manager, ISA Texas



How are your diagnostic skills? Do you enjoy the “What’s Up, Doc” sample table that is usually at the annual ISA Texas conference in Waco? In 2020, the table was “reimagined” to be part of the Virtual Academy.

In an hour-long video, Dr. David Appel and Sheila McBride described each sample. An online quiz accompanied the video. Then on January 13, Dr. Appel and Sheila went through each of the samples and answered all 27 questions. The questions were not simply “What is this disease?” The first question was “What is the host tree?” The answer was Farkleberry. I am not sure if it fits the definition of a tree, but it was the host for the pathogen causing a leaf spot.

There were many samples and questions that featured leaf spots. Spring of 2020 was relatively mild, with just enough rain at the right time to provide a conducive environment. The disease triangle was the topic covered by the question. You had to know what factors are necessary for disease development in a tree.

There were several samples and questions related to bacterial leaf scorch (BLS). That led to a discussion about symptoms and how arborists need to be careful when diagnosing tree problems. Just because the symptoms match a particular disease, in this case BLS, the actual problem could be a different pathogen or even caused by an abiotic issue. Sheila reinforced the need to take time to evaluate the entire site and

submit samples to the disease lab to confirm your diagnosis.

I found the presentation interesting and engaging. Dr. Appel, Sheila, and the moderators did a great job keeping the discussion on topic. I believe everyone who attended was able to ask questions and receive useful information. The workshop was beneficial to those with a lot of experience diagnosing tree problems, as well as those who are new to the industry.

If you would like to view this webinar, it can be found on the ISA Texas website, along with the other ISA Texas webinars. There are also links to the Academy and other presentations from the 2020 Virtual Conference.

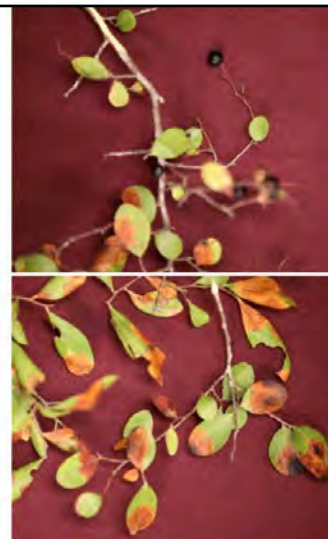
ISA Texas Online Learning Series | ISA Texas Chapter

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The workshop was beneficial to those with a lot of experience diagnosing tree problems, as well as those who are new to the industry.”

Sample #1

Scientific host name: *Vaccinium arboreum*
Common host name: Farkleberry, sparkleberry
Scientific pathogen name: *Ophiodothella vaccinii*
Common pathogen name: Fly-speck leaf spot



What’s Up Doc? Tree Diagnosis Quiz Review Webinar

January 13, 2021



Dr. David Appel
Professor & Associate Department Head
Department of Plant Pathology & Microbiology
Texas A&M University



Sheila McBride
Lead Diagnostician and Extension Program Specialist
Department of Plant Pathology & Microbiology
Texas A&M University



Sample #24

Scientific host name: *Platanus occidentalis*
Common host name: American Sycamore
Scientific pathogen name: *Xylella fastidiosa*
Common pathogen name: Bacterial leaf scorch (BLS)



Sample #22

Scientific host name: *Ilex vomitoria*
Common host name: Yaupon holly
Scientific pathogen name: *Fomes* sp.
Common pathogen name: Hoof fungus, Tinder conk



New Members

- Tyler Andersen Austin, TX
- Miguel ArredondoWebster, TX
- Jacob Brothers..... San Antonio, TX
- Alexzander BrowningDallas, TX
- Carlos CardenasSchertz, TX
- John Collins.....Schertz, TX
- Brian CooperDallas, TX
- Corey Craig Jacksons Gap, TX
- Gabriel Deeb Arlington, TX
- Christopher EasterlingMelissa, TX
- Ralph Edge Mc Kinney, TX
- Angelo Feller Austin, TX
- James Fox..... Valley View, TX
- Sarah Galvan.....Helotes, TX
- Travis Hale..... San Antonio, TX
- Sarah Heater..... Austin, TX
- Michael IbarraWichita Falls, TX
- Tobias Judd..... Fulshear, TX
- Paul Kulas McKinney, TX
- James Lovett Medina, TX
- Robin Loyd..... San Antonio, TX
- Pierre Marchebout San Antonio, TX
- Jordyn McNiel.....Hico, TX
- Andrew Morris.....Wylie, TX
- Michael Nichols..... McKinney, TX
- Matthew SpearsSherman, TX
- Brad Trentham.....Willis, TX
- Francisco Trujillo Jr San Antonio, TX
- Cleve Turner..... Amarillo, TX

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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/>

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New Certification Exam Guidelines

- You must wear a face mask; one will not be provided to you. The mask must remain on upon entering the test location and until you exit the building.
 - Wash your hands in the restroom upon arrival at the test center.
 - Use hand sanitizer upon guidance from the test center staff before admissions process and before entering the testing room.
 - Review and follow World Health Organization signage posted at this examination facility.
- Please acknowledge to the onsite proctor/assistant at check-in that you meet these requirements and that you will comply with the health and safety guidelines listed below while testing:

You will not be allowed to test and should reschedule your exam if*...	Unless...
<p>You have tested positive for COVID-19</p> <p>*There will be no rescheduling fees if you choose to reschedule due to the COVID-19 restrictions</p>	<p>You have been symptom-free and fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine AND At least 14 days have passed since your last exposure, or you have received two negative COVID-19 test results in a row, 24 hours apart</p>
<p>You are currently experiencing or have experienced one or more of these associated symptoms within the last fourteen (14) days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ shortness of breath ■ cough ■ fever ■ chills ■ sore throat ■ loss of smell 	<p>You have been symptom-free and fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine.</p>
<p>You live with or have had close contact with someone who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19</p>	<p>You have been symptom-free and fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine.</p>
<p>You have been or are under home quarantine or centralized observation by government or healthcare authorities</p>	<p>At least 14 days have passed since your quarantine or centralized observation has been lifted by the government or healthcare authorities</p>

Upcoming Certification Exams

The following list is for paper-based exams. You can also find the most current, up-to-date list on our website at www.ISATexas.com/events/

February 12, 2021 Certified Arborist, Municipal, Utility Exam Round Rock, TX

Pearson Vue Testing Centers are giving the ISA Certified Arborist Exam using the same guidelines as listed above.

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2021 Events Update

COVID-19 makes planning events a challenge.
By Gene Gehring, Education Program Manager, ISA Texas

If you had told me in January 2020 that a virus would completely disrupt the world and impact the ability to plan and schedule workshops for the foreseeable future, I would have thought you were “off your rocker.” But that is exactly what happened.

ISA Texas traditionally holds several workshops between January and June. If you were listening to the news, it was predicted there would be a spike in COVID cases after the holidays. For the health and safety of its members, ISA Texas did not plan in-person events in the first quarter of 2021.

The good news is ISA Texas plans to host its usual events--compressed into late April, May and June. Be sure to read your emails from ISA Texas. Registration typically opens 6-8 weeks prior to each event, including a detailed

description and a link to register. ISA Texas members receive notifications a week before the information goes out to the entire mailing list. Registration links are also posted on the events page of the ISA Texas web site.

ISA Texas is following COVID prevention protocols at live events. Participants and speakers will be spaced at least 6 feet apart, masks will be required, temperatures will be taken, and hand sanitizer will be provided. Please be aware of the requirements when you register. ISA Texas has relaxed its cancellation policy. If you are registered for an event and become sick or exposed to COVID, please let us know, and we will cancel your registration.

All dates are tentative until registration is posted.

- March:** Entomology Webinar Series
—in planning stage
- April 28-30** Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)
—Dallas Discovery Gardens
- May 3** Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) renewal
—San Antonio Botanic Garden
- May 4-6** Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)
—San Antonio Botanic Garden
- May 13-15** Climbing Competition
—site TBD (it is difficult to find a location due to number of attendees)
- May 20-21** Texas Oak Wilt Qualification
—Glen Rose
- May 20** Texas Oak Wilt Qualification
—virtual classroom day
- May 26** North Texas Urban Forestry Conference
—Hurst, hosted by Cross Timbers/Trinity Blacklands
- June 9** Texas Oak Wilt Qualification
—Hye, field day for virtual attendees

Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification – will be scheduled when speakers are confirmed

Texas Women’s Tree Climbing Workshop - committee plans to schedule in the fall

Please consult www.ISATexas.com for the latest updates on COVID-19, scheduled events, online learning, and credentialing information.

Member Spotlight



Sue Hoppe

Why did you decide to join the Texas Chapter ISA?

I first joined ISA in the mid-90’s to stay informed on tree care in Texas. At the time, I was a Consulting Arborist and Sales Representative for the Residential and Commercial division of Davey Tree in Houston. ISA and its Texas Chapter provided opportunities to keep my industry knowledge current, which is essential for a consulting arborist. After a brief time away to raise a family I returned to Davey as a Regional Recruiter. Now, ISA and the Texas Chapter allow me to network with peers to understand the evolving nature of our industry.

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

I have always enjoyed understanding how we (as a society) impact our environment, especially when it concerns plant and tree life. Our industry recognizes the importance of identifying and repairing issues that arise in plant healthcare, as well as the significance of implementing preventative care programs that allow plant life to thrive to its potential. I have also found that those dedicated to our industry are very eager to share their knowledge of this industry in order to grow that knowledge in the community!

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

It’s probably no surprise that my favorite hobby involves plants, including designing my outside space. My backyard is my favorite place and I collect metal art to add complementary character to my beds. I like maintaining the beds, trees and shrubs (if it is not mid-summer in Houston). I also enjoy the opportunity to assist my neighbors when they ask me about their property and want to talk trees.

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Everything has become more challenging and organizations and individuals are forced to adapt-or-perish.

By Paul Wierzbicki, HAUFC Past-President/Treasurer

The greatest honor a president of an organization can have is recognizing the outstanding achievements of its members, particularly in the Covid-era, when everything has become more challenging and organizations and individuals are forced to adapt-or-perish. With that in mind, here are the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council's 2020 Awards of Excellence in Urban Forestry.

Tree Advocates of the Year

Tom & Regina Nichols



In Spring of 2020, when the Covid outbreak was worsening and stay-at-home orders were being implemented, Tom & Regina Nichols found a way to bring something positive to their community. The Nichols family teamed up with the City Forester from the City of Missouri City to create the Backyard Sanctuary Program. The idea was to promote tree planting and gardening on private property, while promoting social distancing. Participating residents were able to choose from several options of trees and shrubs online; then the chosen plant, a bag of compost, and instructions for planting were delivered to their doorstep by Missouri City Parks Department staff. This program served 354 Missouri City homes and was completely subsidized by the Nichols family.

Projects of the Year

Green Ribbon Program- TXDOT Houston

TXDOT's Green Ribbon Program allows state transportation funds to be used to develop greenspace enhancement projects along state right-of-ways and detention areas. In 2020, this program resulted in close to 100,000 trees planted within 10 major project areas in Houston, League City, Richmond, Galveston, Friendswood, Missouri City, Montgomery County, and north Fort Bend County. What the numbers don't show is the outstanding level of professionalism that the TXDOT staff demonstrated, as well as the attention to detail in using the latest techniques



for improving site and growing conditions. TXDOT staff understand that sustainable landscapes require more than just sticking trees in the ground as cheaply and quickly as possible. It requires a balance of good plant selection and stock, understanding of soil and hydrological relations, long-term maintenance, and a strong relationships with community partners. TXDOT is the humble champion for tree planting in our region!

Buffalo Bayou Tree Planting

Trees for Houston

Trees for Houston staged two separate tree plantings in November, totaling 400 trees to further enhance one of Houston's natural gems – Buffalo Bayou. On November 6th, Trees for Houston partnered with the City of Houston, Harris County Precinct 2 and Houston Wilderness to plant 300-5g trees of mixed species along Buffalo Bayou. On November 18th, Trees for Houston partnered with Verizon and the Arbor Day Foundation in planting 100-15g trees in Buffalo Bend Nature Park.



Arborist of the Year

Paul Wierzbicki (City Forester) City of Missouri City



Paul has been a dedicated tree professional in the Houston area for over 12 years as the City Forester for City of Missouri City. He has been an active member of HAUFC for most of that time. As Past-President, he has taken great amounts of personal time to revamp HAUFC over the last 3 years, including: enlisting new board members and event partners; improving organizational accountability and management; creating board retreats; and growing membership. Even through the challenges of Covid 19, he did not let his drive and energy towards HAUFC falter; he helped the organization stay engaged and moving forward.

***The Houston Area Urban Forestry Council is a welcoming group of urban forestry professionals and advocates serving the Houston-Galveston region. If you are a beer drinker with a tree planting problem, check us out at: www.HAUFC.org*

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Detroit Diesel, 26,000 GVWR, 11' Southco Forestry Body, Versalift VO260, W/H: 65 ft.



Detroit Diesel, 26,000 GVWR, 14' Arbortech



Detroit Diesel, 26,000 GVWR, Terex XT PRO 56, W/H: 61 ft, **Reg Cab**



Gas and Diesel Available, 19,500 GVWR, 11' Arbortech Body, 4WD, **Reg Cab**



Gas and Diesel Available, 19,500 GVWR, 11' Arbortech Body, 4WD, **Crew Cab**



Detroit Diesel, 26,000 GVWR, Hydraulic Brakes, Versalift VO260, W/H: 65 ft.



Detroit Diesel, 33,000 GVWR & Under CDL Units Available, 14' Arbortech, **Crew Cab**



Detroit Diesel, 33,000 GVWR, Locking Diff, Air Brakes, Versalift Boom, W/H: 75 ft.

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Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB) planned for 2020 to be the “Year of the Tree” in Irving, and thanks to the collaboration with numerous corporate sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and the Parks Arbor Team, they made that happen. The latest tree planting event took place at the West Irving Library on Tuesday, Nov. 10, with employees from Acosta Marketing/Mosaic Sales Solutions through their “Acosta Cares” outreach program. Joined by the city’s arbor team, the group spent the morning planting twenty-five trees, including bur oak, lacebark elm, desert willow, and cedar elm, on the grounds of the West Library.

The funding from this project was provided through a donation from Verizon, with additional funding from Northrop Grumman. Previous plantings during 2020 were funded by grants or donations from the UPS Foundation, Fluor, and BAPS Charities. Combining the efforts of volunteers and city staff, more than 150 hours were dedicated to planting a total of eighty-nine trees in eight projects at six different parks, and most recently at the West Library.

“KIB and the Parks Department place a high value on trees in our community, and we were looking forward to a year full of planting projects,” said KIB

Year of the Tree in Irving

Volunteers plant 25 trees on West Library grounds

By Taylor Guynes, Urban Forester/Arborist, City of Irving

board member Chuck Kirk. “Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to plant an impressive number of trees throughout the city, trees that will be enjoyed by our residents and visitors for many years to come. These projects provide great examples of what KIB does – engaging so many different groups to work together to make Irving a more beautiful community.”

Keep Irving Beautiful is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the community about litter abatement,

recycling, and beautification to help preserve the health and promote the social and economic prosperity of the city. As an award-winning affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and Keep Texas Beautiful, Keep Irving Beautiful reaches out to all sectors of the community, including government, businesses, churches, as well as cultural, educational, neighborhood and civic organizations. For more information on volunteering with KIB or making an activity a “green event,” visit [CityofIrving.org/KIB](https://www.cityofirving.org/KIB) or call (972) 721-2175.



Virtual Board Meeting & Retreat

Our annual ISA Texas Board of Directors' retreat and meeting was held on November 19, 2020. As with everything else we did in 2020, we had to re-think how we would accomplish what has historically been a two full day in-person event packed with networking, team building, discussion, review of completed work and planning for the next 12 months. Both the retreat and board meeting were reduced to a very full 9-hour day using the GoToMeeting virtual platform. The virtual platform accomplished the task of completed work review and planning but was missing the very important team building and networking components.

It is very unfortunate that our newly elected board members were forced to miss the team building, which I feel is one of the most important parts of the retreat. Team building and networking gives everyone the opportunity to get to know each other, learn what our individual strengths and weaknesses are and to experience first-hand the feeling of family, support and encouragement that make the Texas Chapter ISA the great organization that it is.

I started the day off by welcoming our new board members and outlining what our main objective for the retreat would be. ISA Texas Executive Director, John Giedraitis, spent some time introducing our Board of Directors Manual to our new members. This also served as a review for the returning members.

The next segment featured a presentation from our guest speaker, ISA CEO and Executive Director, Caitlyn Pollihan. Caitlyn spoke about the Governance Best Management Practices focus of last year's Leadership Workshop, some of the recommendations that came out of there and how the ISA board uses those kind of governance recommendations to ensure the important policies and processes are in place for how they work together as a board and what their expectations are of each other...speaking with one voice.

Following a discussion on Caitlyn's presentations, the remainder of the morning was consumed with a review of our recently adopted Three Year Strategic Membership Plan, and a review and discussion on our 2020 Work Plan. Updates were made on what has been completed, what work is still in process and what may no longer be relevant to the needs of the chapter. The team was given a short 30-minute break to eat lunch and prepare for the afternoon session.

Rethinking a two-day retreat into one nine hour event was no small feat.
By A.J. Thibodeaux, President ISA Texas

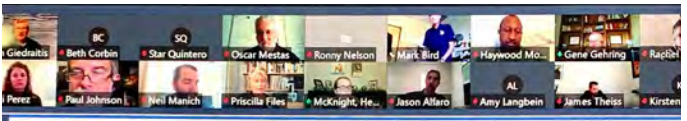
Following the break, the board spent the next two hours finalizing our 2021 Work Plan. Some of the 2021 Work Plan objectives include: developing a succession management plan for all Executive Committee members, Directors, Committee Chair positions and ISA Texas staff; development of clear job descriptions and duties for staff, board and volunteers; and a public awareness plan, to name a few. The entire 2021 Work Plan is available for your review at ISATexas.com.

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm. The minutes of the last board meeting were approved as presented. The next two hours were filled with updated work reports and discussion from all standing Committee Chairs.

The day was brought to close with voting on the adoption of our 2021 Work Plan, adoption of our 2021 Budget, the renaming of our Certification Committee to Credential Committee and a few other items. A date was set for the next Board meeting and the team adjourned at 5:00 pm.

2021 is off to a good start and plans are in place to make it another event-filled year for ISA Texas. There are a lot of volunteers working very hard to make ISA Texas what you want it to be.

Stay safe and have a healthy and prosperous 2021! Promote ISA Texas every chance you get, and be active in your Chapter.



Committee Report:
Heather McKnight—Editor
Joan Ivy—Interim Associate Editor

1. I'm familiarizing myself with the newsletter process/goodies on the newsletter google drive.
2. The December newsletter is "in the works" for distribution on December 1st.
3. Here is our projected publication schedule:

Issue month	deadline	highlight	notes
February	January 12	board retreat	
April	March 12	??	need a teaser for TTCC to spur folks to register
June	May 12	??	too early for TTCC, but will include TXWTCW spread
August	July 12	TTCC	also need teaser for TTC
October	September 12	ISA conference	too early for TTC, but we could include a thanks to our sponsors, assuming that we have all of them by then
December	November 12	TTC & awards	

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THE ISA TEXAS Chapter**

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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 DOES NOT produce seed pods, and one of its parents is *Catalpa*.

This issue's challenge was provided by Terry Kirkland.

LAST MONTH'S TREE ID



The answer for the December 2020 issue was: *Acacia farnesiana*, Sweet Acacia or Huisache.