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NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
APRIL 2021



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President's Letter



Hello ISA Texas members,

Following one of the worst winter weather events on record, I am very happy to see our “normal” seasonal temperatures return to Texas. If the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 was not disruptive enough for you, Mother Nature offered us a challenge or her own early this year. On Monday, February 15, 2021 more than a third of the continental US recorded below-zero temperatures. Many Texans experienced single-digit temperatures for the first time in more than 30 years. Snow, freezing rain, icy roads, record cold temperatures, electric power outages and water utility outages set the stage for a very long and brutal week. It is my sincere hope that our ISA Texas family suffered minimal losses and with heads held high are looking forward to better days. With 37 years of experience in the tree care industry, I know the resiliency of our industry and organization members is strong. We will persevere!

On March 11th your Executive Committee members, Chapter Directors and other Committee Chair members met virtually for our first Board of Directors meeting of the year. During this meeting, we reviewed committee reports, checked progress on our 2021 work plan, reviewed our budget and other financial matters, and discussed several items of new business including the adoption of a Texas Chapter ISA Board Code of Conduct. Your Texas Chapter ISA Board of Directors continues to work hard moving the organization forward and working to make 2021 a great year.

Your Education Committee members and Staff have been hard at work hosting and planning additional educational webinars and ISA credential courses. If you did not register to attend the ISA Texas members only “Texas Trees and the Blizzard of ’21: What’s

Next?” webinar, you missed out big! 223 Texas Chapter ISA members logged in to listen to seven highly-experienced veterans of our industry from across all regions of Texas discuss their experiences with past severe winter weather events. All seven panelists are arborists who were practicing in the 1983 and/or the 1989 deep freezes. The panelists included Dr. David Appel with Texas A&M University, Mr. Russell Peters with Arborological Services in DFW, Mrs. Susan Henson from the Fort Worth and Grand Prairie area, Mr. James Tuttle with Tree Loving Care in Lubbock, Mr. Guy LeBlanc with Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin, Mr. David Vaughan with ArborVaughan Consult LLC. in San Antonio, and international plant health care consultant Dr. Todd Watson. On behalf of the Texas Chapter ISA Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Staff members, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the panelists for donating their time and expertise to help educate and guide our members on what they might expect to see over the next few months because of the recent severe winter weather. The first-hand knowledge and experience that you shared with our members is invaluable. **THANK YOU!**

In closing, I want to remind you we always need more volunteers willing to serve on our board, help with events and to provide content for our newsletter; so, please contact me or any of our staff or board member 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. Thank you for your continued support of our great organization and industry.

Best Regards, A.J. Thibodeaux



Deep in their
roots, all flowers
keep the light.

— Theodore Roethke

On the Cover

Spring blooms emerge on *Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis*.

Editor's Note



Greetings, fellow Tree People! And....Hello, Spring! Which is, of course, a very welcome transition--especially after the arctic blast

we experienced not too long ago. (I don't even care that the tree pollen is flying and messing with my allergies.) As most of us move into our busiest season, the plant world is busy, too. Changes seem to occur overnight--almost like magic! I'll notice that the Redbuds are blooming... then, suddenly--the leaves appear. The pot of Hyacinth bulbs in my office makes great strides while I'm sleeping, and I get to see their dramatic progress every morning when I arrive at my office.

Since March was Women's History Month, this issue celebrates "Women in Arboriculture"—three ISA Texas female Arborists are featured. You'll also find a recap from the "Texas Trees and the Blizzard of '21" webinar on page 13 and information on how you can help with the follow-up project—"The Before and After Project" on page 14 (which allows everyone to share their images). Be sure to "leaf" through the rest of this issue for Upcoming Events and other goodies. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue and to those out there reading it.

Enjoy this new season, and take time to appreciate both the subtle and dramatic changes of Spring.

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

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Editor: **Heather McKnight**
heather.mcknight@leaguecitytx.gov 281-554-1441

Associate Editor: **Joan Ivy**
joanivy@sbcglobal.net

Advertising Representative: **John Giedraitis**
JPG@ISATexas.com 979-324-1929 Fax 979-680-9420

April 2021

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Oak Wilt Disease is Messin' with Texas

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Justin Rodriguez Lubbock
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Cameron Scott Haltom City
Michael Standridge Canyon Lake
Rolando Vences Austin
Alex Waldman Austin



Texas A&M's Appel Receives Outstanding Plant Pathologist Honors

Southern Division of the American Phytopathological Society provides award

In recognition of his distinguished contributions to plant pathology, the Southern Division of the American Phytopathological Society has honored David Appel, Ph.D., with its Outstanding Plant Pathologist award.

Appel is a professor and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialist with the Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology. He specializes in forest and shade tree pathology, wine grape diseases and plant disease control.

"Throughout his career, Dr. Appel has maintained a research program focused on some of the most resistant plant diseases and invasive species in Texas and disseminated the results to stakeholders," said Kevin Ong, Ph.D., professor and associate department head for AgriLife Extension with the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology. "As a result, he has ensured that Texas A&M is a premiere source of research-based information on a wide variety of diseases so Texans can grow healthy and productive trees and plants."

Appel earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in plant pathology from West Virginia University and his doctorate in plant pathology from Virginia Tech.

Oak wilt disease

Appel diagnosed oak wilt as the cause of a highly destructive oak mortality epidemic in Texas. He developed an integrated management program for disease control that has become standard practice for natural resource management.

His collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, USFS, and the Texas A&M Forest Service, TFS, produced a USFS-sponsored pest suppression project to provide landowner assistance in implementing oak wilt controls. His testing on using propiconazole for intravascular injection led to a new label for the fungicide Alamo that was adopted

throughout the U.S. to control oak wilt. It is also a standard recommendation for other diseases such as Dutch elm disease and laurel wilt.

Appel's work advanced understanding of where the oak wilt pathogen may have originated and how the disease affects the breeding and feeding behaviors of the golden-cheeked warbler, an endangered species in Central Texas.

His long-term partnerships with the USFS, the TFS, the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and ranchers and homeowners optimized his research. In 1992, Gov. Ann Richards recognized the results of these cooperative efforts when she declared the third week of June as Oak Wilt Awareness Week in Texas.

Wine grape diseases

Appel used a similar approach for grape diseases. Twenty years ago, Pierce's disease, PD, threatened the rapidly growing wine grape industry in Texas. Appel analyzed the pathogen spread patterns and the population structure of the grape strain of *X. fastidiosa* within vineyards. His research showed the need to aggressively manage the insect vector and reduce

inoculum sources to decrease PD losses. His comprehensive demonstration and educational efforts have significantly reduced PD in Texas, despite the increasing use of the highly desirable but susceptible Viniferacultivars.

Appel also studied cotton root rot, CRR, disease on wine grapes. His research led to a label for the fungicide Topguard Terra, giving Texas wine grape growers the only option for dealing with CRR.

Current projects include grapevine trunk diseases and identification of viruses that affect wine grapes, conducting his research in cooperative efforts with Texas vineyard managers and owners. His recent work with grapes contributed to publications of novel grape viruses in 2019 and 2020.

Invasive pathogens

Another emphasis of Appel's work is exotic, invasive pathogens. One of the most threatening involved the introduction of giant Asian (Japanese) dodder, GAD, in Houston. He participated in a team of federal, state and municipal agencies to survey and eradicate the pathogen before the problem became untenable.

Appel also leads efforts to survey and monitor sudden oak death. This pathogen has been detected in several Texas nurseries as well as in streams at two locations in the state.

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/>

He also contributed to the citrus health response program to survey and monitor citrus greening and citrus canker on the Texas Upper Gulf Coast.

Education, outreach and leadership

As an AgriLife Extension specialist, Appel has participated in over 1,000 homeowner meetings, workshops, Master Gardener trainings and county programs to extend his research to the public, professional arborists, landscape specialists and Texas wine grape growers.

Appel has taught plant pathology to thousands of graduate and undergraduate students for over 30 years. He served the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology as interim department head, associate department head for academics and associate department head and program leader for AgriLife

Extension. He also served as interim department head for forest science, which is now the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology.

He was recognized by the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture as Outstanding Professional of the Year in 2004.

Appel said that this award is among the most meaningful given by the professional society. “The Southern Division of the American Phytopathological Society has a strong history of providing excellence in research and applied solutions for grower’s problems.” Appel said. “I want to thank them and my colleagues for supporting my efforts throughout my career and honoring me with this distinction.”

*Originally written by Helen White,
Communications Specialist
for Texas A&M AgriLife
(helen.white@ag.tamu.edu)
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Thank You!

Thank you to our members that participated in our annual membership survey. Your feedback is greatly appreciated; the board and staff have reviewed all answers, additional comments and feedback, and we are working to make your Chapter experience even better. For the question, “Would you prefer the 2021 Texas Tree Conference to be live, virtual or both?” the majority chose both: live and virtual.

The Texas Chapter is already hard at work to make this year’s conference both live and virtual-- please stay tuned!



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Member Spotlight

David Mauk

Why did you decide to join the Texas Chapter ISA?

I decided to become a member of Texas ISA because I am a fourth-generation Houstonian and a proud Texan.

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

I love arboriculture because it's an industry that is full of remarkable people encouraging others to grow to their full potential.

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

A favorite hobby of mine is bass fishing. A fun fact about me I received my Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and have been fluent in Spanish for more than 20 years.



Ninth Annual Herb Fair

At Moody Gardens
Wednesday, May 5, 2021

The 9th Annual Gulf Coast Herb Fair will be held at Moody Gardens on Wednesday, May 5 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The theme of this year's fair is Fiesta Hierbas (Spice Party), celebrating Cinco de Mayo and the variety of herbs used in the cooking with a Mexican flavor.

Guest speaker Chef Mary Bass will talk about chili peppers, cumin, cilantro, oregano and other spices she uses in preparation of different popular dishes.

This year's Herb Fair has been expanded and moved to the ballroom at Moody Gardens Hotel. Ample free parking is available. Social distancing and current Covid-19 practices will be practiced.

A noon luncheon sponsored by the Friends of Moody Gardens will feature Bass, who owns several food

establishments: a restaurant, a take-out service, a catering company and a bar-b-que place – all on Galveston Island.

The Herb Fair is free and open to the public. The luncheon is \$40 per person for members; \$50 for non-members. Reserved tables for six are \$300. Contact Ellen Perry e.l.perry@att.net for more information. Reservation deadline is April 30.

Dozens of vendors selling herbs and other craft items will be available in the ballroom and terrace at the Moody Gardens Hotel. Other lectures will be conducted by Galveston County Master Gardeners.

The annual Blessing of the Garden will be conducted on the hotel's terrace.

In addition, a hands-on workshop will be held on Tuesday, May 4 from 1:30 to 3:30 with glass artist Tamara Kritter of the Shard Yard in Alvin, who



will teach participants how to create a glass art garden stone. All art supplies, instruction and refreshments are included in the cost of the class, \$45 per person.

Proceeds of the Gulf Coast Herb Fair help the Friends of the Moody Gardens provide educational outings to schoolchildren and seniors.

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Texas Trees & the Blizzard of 2021

Highlights from the 'Texas Trees & the Blizzard of 2021' Webinar
By Russell Peters

Weather

- DFW experienced a -2 F temperature overnight, and it stayed below freezing just shy of 275 hours. We had early snow/sleet/ice cover for the entire week of the coldest temps.

Grass

- Most **turfgrass** should be okay, but you may see some damage to lawns that might have been installed too late in the fall and didn't establish adequate roots.

Plants

- Looks like the variegated **Pittosporum**, **Fig Ivy**, **Fringe Flower** and **most of the herbaceous plants** that got hammered showed the damage within a week. Japanese **Ligustrum** has died back but will probably recover.
- Most palms suffered, with the exception of **Windmill** and **Mexican Fan**. An additional comment on the palms: if you leave them to wait and see if they send up new fronds, be careful not to wait too long. The trunk rot sets in quickly and if you attempt to climb, you could find yourself in trouble. They do not develop this rot uniformly, so check the entire circumference by jabbing a knife into the trunk before you or your crews try to climb/remove one of these.
- **Crepe Myrtle** 'mildew resistant varieties' have traditionally suffered winter injury to varying degrees. I suspect we will certainly see varietal differences once the temperatures start to warm. The original, native, small leaf crepe myrtles will undoubtedly see some damage, but root systems will all likely regenerate a crown.
- Most **hollies** seem to have made it through just fine with some leaf burn.

Trees

- **Magnolias** fared well with some leaf burn.
- **Conifer** damage varies tremendously--some appear dead already.
- Most of the **Pines** that will not make it died during that week.
- **Live Oaks**. I first reported that evening that I did not see much damage in native trees here. I am now starting to get reports of dead Live Oaks. So far, all of these have been 4"-12" trees that were installed in the last 5 years.

I have a couple of properties with several Live Oaks that were all installed at the same time, 3 years ago, and 1-2

are already dead. I did not see that in any of the previous significant freezes here in past years. I suspect the -2 F temperature was probably the culprit (and without knowing the specific sources) it will be difficult to see if it is only trees that came from deep South Texas. These trees were all well hydrated, and all of them received the same cultural care. Perplexing...but it makes sense. These Live Oaks in Texas are all hybrids, and the genetic variability is tremendous; so, pinpointing a specific selection is difficult. It will be interesting to see if any of the newer selections, such as 'High Rise' and 'Cathedral') sustain injury. Keep an eye out for bark starting to slough off once the trees re-leaf and we get into June and July. If you see loose bark, LEAVE IT ALONE. It seems like once you expose the sapwood to direct sunlight, you greatly inhibit the magic trick they did back in 83-84 when the Live Oaks appeared to be completely girdled, but started to push out, from what appeared to be meristematic tissue oozing or pushing out of the ray parenchyma and reconnecting the vascular system.

I am not completely comfortable that I have a good understanding of what exactly happened. I was just starting out in my graduate program and still really "green." Wrapping loosely with burlap to keep the bark in place might be helpful. This will occur with large trunk injuries that you are able to cover within a few days of damage; you can promote this tissue by spritzing the injured area and cover with tarpaper to be kept in place for 6 months. Remove, and you will be amazed at how much tissue develops from the injured area; this seems to be true for any species.



REQUEST FOR PHOTOS: “Before and After Project”

The extraordinary weather events of early February in Texas prompted leadership of ISA Texas to sponsor a panel discussion with the title, “Texas Trees and the Blizzard of ‘21” What’s Next?” The focus of the discussion, held as a Zoom Webinar on February 9th from 5:30 – 7:00 pm, was on how our urban forests were going to respond to the extreme cold weather. A unique panel of arborists, assembled to discuss their professional experiences in previous, similar, storms was assembled.

The discussion was a fascinating account of what the accomplished arborists learned from the past. In addition, an idea was born out of those discussions to enlist the entire Texas arboriculture community to document the fates of freeze damaged trees, essentially providing for a permanent record that could be used for future generations in coping with similar events. And this is where you come in! By sending your “Before and After” images of freeze damaged trees to a special email address (Texasfreeze@gmail.com) they will be uploaded to a website designed for the project.

A short questionnaire will also be available to include your important observations. All of the compiled data will be accessible to members of ISA and non-members alike.



So, please help us make a positive difference and participate in this important effort. Thank you,
—Dr. David Appel



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2021 Events Update

The ISA Texas Education committee has been hard at work. After a slow start to the year, most of the annual events have been scheduled to be held in person. Thanks to COVID, virtual events are here to stay. Going forward, we will look for opportunities to provide quality webinars that are of value to the membership.

A good example was the “Texas Trees and the Blizzard of ’21: What’s Next?” webinar (see synopsis). It originated as an inquiry from Dr. Appel on a Thursday afternoon and was an hour and a half online forum the following Tuesday. Without the online experience gained last year, it would not have been possible. Dr. Appel presented on how extreme cold impacts plants, and six professionals from around the state gave their experiences with the storm in 1983 and its aftermath. ISA Texas is working with Sheila McBride, Lead Diagnostician at the Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab, to document the effects of the winter storm on trees. She is requesting before and after photos (see request) that she will share at the conference in Waco, September 28-30.

For those of you who are TDA licensed, we have put together an online entomology series that allows you to

get all the required CEU’s. Laura Miller, Tarrant County Horticulture agent, will give an hour-long webinar on Laws and Regs. Two weeks later, Molly Keck, Agrilife Entomologist in Bexar County, provides a four-week series on entomology.

ISA Texas has compressed two full TRAQ courses, a TRAQ renewal, two in-person TOWQ courses and a virtual TOWQ into late April, May and June. Registration opened 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.

The conference committee is planning an in-person 41st Annual Texas Tree Conference in Waco for September 29-October 1. Mark your calendars now. We are working with local officials to determine acceptable occupancy levels. The committee and staff are also exploring how to provide a virtual option.

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.

Entomology Webinar Series

Session 1: March 17	Pesticide Laws and Reg Update – Laura Miller, Horticulturist Tarrant County Agrilife Extension
Session 2: March 31	Ento 101 – Molly Keck, Entomologist Bexar County Agrilife Extension
Session 3: April 7	Ento 102 - Molly Keck, Entomologist Bexar County Agrilife Extension
Session 4: April 14	Common Insects of Trees and Landscape Plants Molly Keck, Entomologist Bexar County Agrilife Extension
Session 5: April 21	Integrated Pest Management of Tree and Landscape Pests Molly Keck, Entomologist Bexar County Agrilife Extension

April 28-30	Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) Dallas Discovery Gardens, Dallas Texas
May 3	Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) renewal San Antonio Botanic Garden, San Antonio, Texas
May 4-6	Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) San Antonio Botanic Garden
May 13-15	Climbing Competition site TBD (because of number of attendees, it is difficult to find a location)
May 20-21	Texas Oak Wilt Qualification Glen Rose
May 20	Texas Oak Wilt Qualification virtual classroom day
June 9	Texas Oak Wilt Qualification Hye Texas, field day for virtual attendees.
August 3-5	TNLA Nursery/Landscape Expo San Antonio Convention Center, San Antonio Texas
Sept. 28-30	Texas Tree Conference, Waco Convention Center

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

Texas Women’s Tree Climbing Workshop – has been moved to 2022



Please consult
www.isatexas.com
for the latest events
updates





Women In Arboriculture

More talented women are embracing the challenging field of arboriculture and blazing trails in a male-dominated field. March was Women's History Month—so, let's celebrate some of our “tree ladies.”

Compiled By Heather McKnight

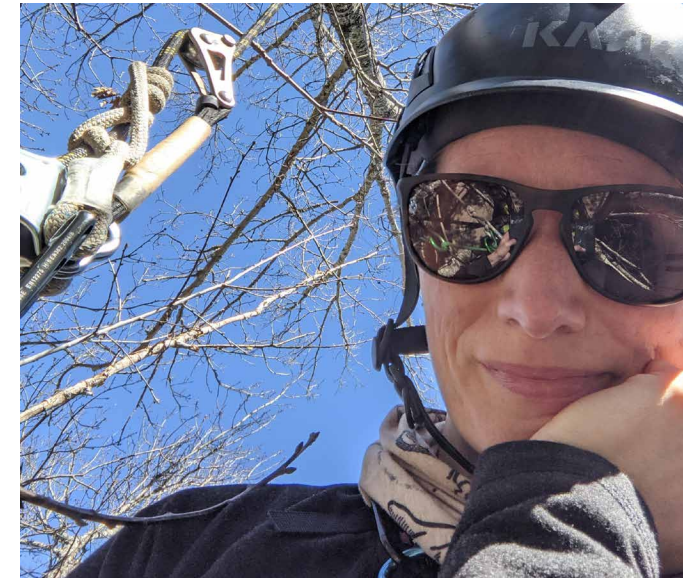
Here are just a few of the dynamic women energizing our Chapter...

Star Quintero

I got my start in arboriculture about fifteen years ago. I worked during high school summers with my mom, who is also an arborist. I started climbing in college and have worked in a variety of places that eventually led me to Texas. After having my son a couple of years ago, I decided to take a leap and start my own small tree care company. There have been ups and downs and I'm still learning and growing, but here is what I've learned from my experience so far:

- If you want to be a tree climber, be a tree climber. Be prepared to fight for your career. Education, managing, and sales were all proposed to me as suitable choices over climbing. Be prepared to work hard, even twice as hard if you want to keep up and excel.
- Have a sense of humor. I can't say how many times a client came out while I was in a tree and asked, “Is that a girl up there?” Someone even asked me that when I was eight months pregnant, go figure. Choose to not be offended.
- You can take negativity and frustration and put that energy into growth. I had a leader inform my coworkers that females will never be as productive as male climbers. Holding grudges doesn't help you, but forgiveness is freeing.
- Find a good company to work for. I've learned a great deal from each work environment and the arborists I've worked under.
- You are responsible for your actions and growth. Don't wait for opportunities to be handed to you, pursue them. You can get stuck waiting for opportunities or you can take initiative. I have wanted to work for myself for years but lacked confidence. I finally took a chance, and it has paid off.
- Find those who will support you and teach you. ISA Texas is a great resource. Serving on the board has given me the chance to rub shoulders with great men and women. Let greatness be your goal.
- It comes down on you to find opportunities and take chances.

I choose to be a tree climber, and I have had so much support along the way. Our industry has men and women who choose to include instead of exclude. Thank you to all who have supported, taught, and mentored me through my career.

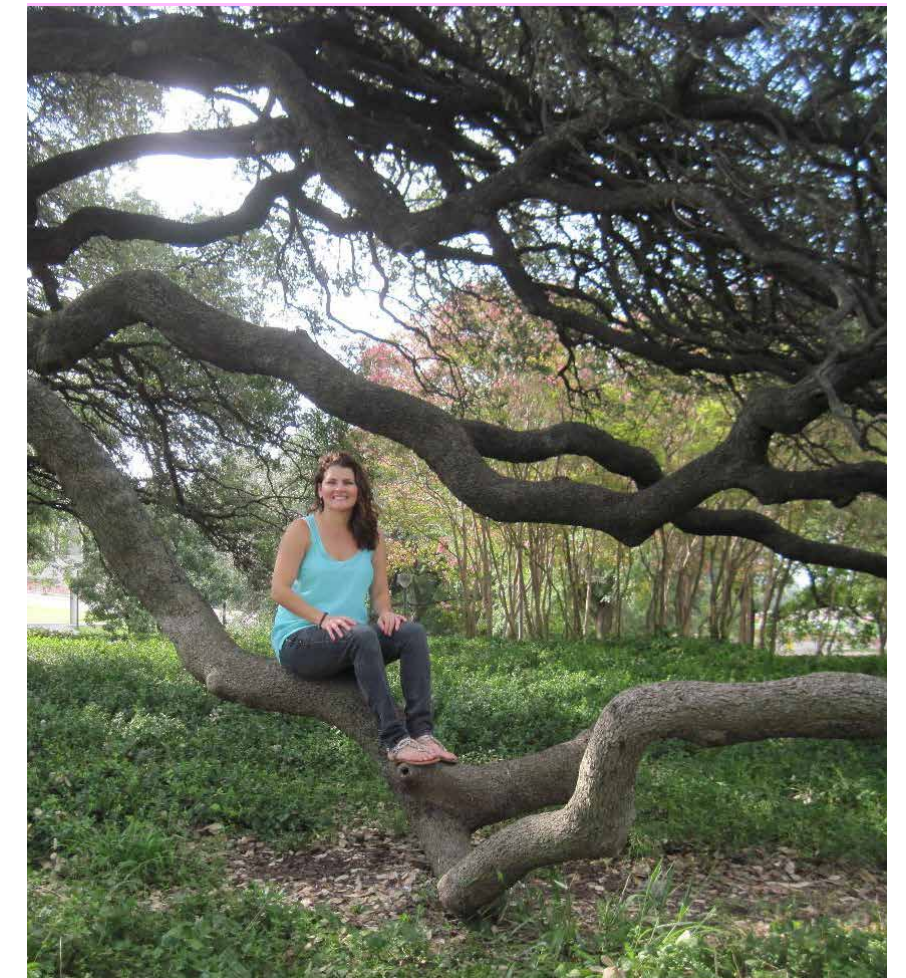


Misti Perez

I started my landscape career in Key West, Florida in 1997 where my passion for trees and plants flourished. Once I realized my love for the tropics, a few years later I moved to Hawaii where I took my love for plants to the next level and became the first female Certified Landscape Technician in the Hawaiian Islands. Within a year, I was judging other candidates taking their CLT exam. There, I met the Urban Forest Administrator for the City of Honolulu who introduced me to what it meant to be--a Certified Arborist. He became my mentor and friend and guided me to becoming certified in 2005.

I went on to work with a tree care company on Oahu and was the only female amongst about 50 employees. The staff and crew there always made me feel like we were part of a family; and over time, I was asked to help my coworkers gain ISA credentials, like I had. I formed a study group for the Certified Tree Worker program by having study sessions after work, and soon we had several Certified Tree Workers on our crew. Family priorities pulled me back to Texas, where I was born and raised, but I found it difficult to break into the tree care industry in an area where I was not familiar with the trees.

Finally, I met a tree care business owner who hired me to sell services for his company. Not long after that, I was nominated and elected on the Texas Chapter ISA board as the certification liaison, a position I held for seven years.



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My challenge to others is to treat each other equally, do not underestimate a person's knowledge or capability, and realize the importance of giving back by creating some space for others to grow.

—Misti Perez

Above left: Star Quintero

Above right: Misti Perez reclines in a Live Oak, Austin

Opposite page: Star Quintero gearing up for a training day, Ft. Worth, 2020





Left: Misti Perez participates in the Western Chapter Tree Climbing Championship, 2009

the BCMA credential, and it has been helpful to collaborate with others in the industry to prepare for the exam.

Thinking back on my arboriculture career, I give immense credit to my friend on Oahu that piqued my interest in becoming a Certified Arborist. He took the time to explain things and educate me, even though he already had a staff of full-time arborists to lead. And then, years later when I came back to the mainland, I am so grateful for the person in Texas who gave me a chance to start selling services for his company, which led me to the Texas Chapter ISA and serving on the board, and lastly to today as a part-time staff person. The importance of those influencers being advocates for me and leading me to where I am today was critical in the development of my career. My challenge to others is to treat each other equally, do not underestimate a person's knowledge or capability, and realize the importance of giving back by creating some space for others to grow. Promoting the education and career of others in the tree care industry will ultimately lead the future generations of arborists caring for our trees.

During my time as certification liaison, I helped many others become Certified Arborists by answering questions about the process, setting up exams, proctoring exams and promoting the credential, as well as assigning CEUs for events for Certified individuals.

After starting a family, I decided to start my own company as a tree care consultant and was then hired onto Texas Chapter ISA as a part-time staff member as the Member Services Specialist, a position I still hold today. I have since become Tree Risk Assessment Qualified and Oak Wilt Qualified, and I am studying to take the BCMA exam. I have formed another study group of arborists to prepare for

Rachel McGregor

I'm from Springtown, Texas. I have a six year old red headed son, Resin, and yes--what they say about red heads is true. I graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's of Science in Urban Forestry in 2010, while working on undergraduate research with Dr. David Appel at Texas A&M University on Oak Wilt.

I received a Master's of Science in Plant Pathology with an emphasis on Nematology from Tarleton State University in 2012. I serve on the Board of Directors for both ISA Texas and the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council, she is an ISA Certified Arborist and Texas Accredited Forester. I have been working as a Staff Forester II in Granbury for eight years and my goal is to educate the public on the importance of early detection and management options for Oak Wilt, promote forest health, and assist landowners with helpful stewardship information for their property.

In my spare time I coach and play volleyball, serve on the PTA Board at my son's school, read psychological thrillers, and play Aunt Rayray to my nephew and three nieces.



Above: Rachel McGregor and family, Ft. Worth Stockyards, 2020

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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: If you want to see this tree, come "down" to the Riverwalk.

This issue's challenge was provided by **Juan Guerra**.

LAST MONTH'S TREE ID



Last month's Tree ID Winner:
Leon Macha, from El Campo

Tree was: *Chitalpa tashkentensis*