

In the Shade

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



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International Society
of Arboriculture

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Hello ISA Texas members, As the years pass, and the older I get (and yes, I know I am getting old), it becomes increasingly evident to me how fast time flies. It is already August, and we are deep into another Texas summer. In just a few short weeks, we will be gathering in Waco for the 41st Texas Tree Conference, Academy, Trade Show and Tree School, and my tour as President of the Texas Chapter ISA will be ending. It has been two years since our last in person Conference, and I could not be more excited about seeing everyone in person again. Look out Waco, and Cricket's--here we come!

Your Educational Events Committee continues to organize and host exceptional educational programs to promote professionalism in arboriculture throughout the state. The pandemic may have stopped us from meeting in person, but in no way did it reduce the opportunities available to our members to obtain relevant education and earn needed CEU's. We have several online webinars available on our website and will have many more opportunities during and following the Texas Tree Conference later this year. I want to personally thank our Educational Events Committee members and our Executive Director for all the hard work they have done making these opportunities available to our members. The Texas Chapter ISA Board of Directors met in Waco on June 17th at the Dr. Pepper Museum. All Board members except for two were present for the meeting, either in person or virtually. The Board entertained Committee reports from all standing committees. Treasurer Neil Manich provide current year financials for review and reported that the Chapter remains on sound financial footing. The only new business completed during this meeting was the adoption of some much-needed revisions to our Chapter Bylaws. A complete copy of the updated Bylaws can be found on the ISAT Documents page of our website.

With this being my final President's letter, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all those who share their valuable time working to make ISAT what it is today. As with most things we do in life, we will only get back what we put in. With that said, ISAT has been instrumental in helping me be successful during my 38-year career in Arboriculture. I have no doubt I would not be where I am today if not for all the help ISAT and ISAT Members have provided over the years. Any advice or guidance I have ever needed was never more than a phone call with another chapter member away. The thing I love the most about our industry is how willing everyone is to help make each of us as successful as we can be. If the Texas Chapter ISA has helped you to be a better Arborist or helped you advance your career in any way, please consider giving back. The future of our organization is in your hands.

I have some exciting news to share! Preservation Tree Services has joined forces with SavATree, a leading provider of professional tree, shrub, and lawn care. This merger allows Preservation Tree Services to enhance its current capabilities while continuously providing the highest level of care to their local customers in the Dallas-Fort Worth and N. Central Texas area. Principals of Preservation Tree Services, Pauline Perry, Andy Spiegel, and I, along with our dedicated team of arborists, technicians, and office personnel, will stay on with SavATree to provide outstanding, personalized local service.

For more than 40 years, SavATree has been providing exemplary tree, shrub and lawn care to residences and businesses with a reputation for excellence among its clients, employees and within our industry. Like Preservation Tree Services, SavATree has a dedicated team of highly trained arborists and professional field personnel that share a commitment to quality, integrity, reliability, and professionalism. Moreover, our companies both share similar values, making this a perfect match!

It has been an honor serving as Chapter President this past year. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity, and I hope I have lived up to your expectations. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Waco!

Best Regards, A.J. Thibodeaux

//

A flower does not think of competing to the flower next to it. It just blooms.”
— Zen Shin

Editor's Note



Greetings, fellow Tree People! As the summer winds down, we can look forward to the cooler season ahead (fingers crossed). (We're all ready for a much-needed rest from the summer heat—including the trees!) I'm getting excited about the Tree Conference; and, it's always exciting to pack a hoodie in your suitcase for the first time of the season.

In this issue, you'll find additional details and registration information for the "The 41st Annual Texas Tree Conference—'Little Tree, Big Shade'" on page 16. Also, check out the "Texas Oak Wilt Qualification Recap" on page 13. 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.

See y'all soon in Waco!

Sincerely,

Heather McKnight



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Texas Chapter
International Society
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Chapter member benefits include:

- **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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August 2021

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Tree Conference Word Search

R L U H F Y Y N O E H C N U L S D R A W A S M
T R E E A C A D E M Y W M U N I C I P A L I Y
S D R V D U N S R O T I B I H X E Q U J B L T
S E M O M F F I H Y K F T D J K C X J N H E I
W A I C X I B G B B P F O P G P C A G S U N L
O C X X R D B M H B Y H M I Q T H W K E C T I
H O F Z E I Z W Q D O J C M H M Q M B R G A T
S M R B D U C U O C A W H L G C T N J D C U U
E M J G C A Q K Y Z K U B A C D Z M T O G C O
D E E S C T N W E T R E E S C H O O L S N T Y
A R B F C C I R P T L T R R I W S D V N Z I S
R C R Z Z M H W J E S J O Z E A B E Q B F O H
T I S H P S H C Z E W Z E Q D P B I H P Q N U
W A N S N O I T A R T S N O M E D K D C T T A
L L L Y D N D N K V A R S R O S N O P S W D J
X I Q P B R E A K O U T S E S S I O N S J R Z

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

AWARDS LUNCHEON
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
COMMERCIAL
CRICKETS
DEMONSTRATIONS

EXHIBITORS
MUNICIPAL
SILENT AUCTION
SPONSORS
TRADE SHOWS

TREE ACADEMY
TREE SCHOOLS
UTILITY
WACO



On the Cover

A Tuscarora Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica* 'Tuscarora') blooms in the summer heat.

New Members

Kristina Coates.....Show Low AZ
 Shawn CressmanSan Antonio TX
 Brant Day.....Henderson TX
 Nina DillmannPrinceton TX
 Savannah DolevaGeorgetown TX
 Steve Farley.....Magnolia TX
 Nathan Francis.....Conroe TX
 John GreenConroe TX
 Kelli Greene.....Hooks TX
 Matthew Gonzalez.....Johnson City TX
 Lisa HaynesMagnolia TX
 Daniel KaplanekTomball TX
 Michael Kim.....Lewisville TX
 Joshua KingCibolo TX
 Alex MartinezAustin TX
 Brent Mayberry.....San Antonio TX
 James MillsWeatherford TX

DeRouens Mitchell.....Dallas TX
 Michael Newton.....Houston TX
 Austin NicholsMagnolia TX
 Michelle PersinkoAustin TX
 Emily PlaucheDallas TX
 Philip PrukopAustin TX
 Dr Martha Romero.....Arlington TX
 Gerrit Sampson.....Austin TX
 Christopher ScuttAmarillo TX
 Sean Smith.....Leander TX
 Thomas StrawnMelissa TX
 Srinivas TottempudiRichmond TX
 Anthony Uerling.....Houston TX
 Adrian Vafides.....Salado TX
 Koree Vanzant.....Moore OK
 Kyle VydersMidlothian TX
 Jose Zamora.....Abilene TX

Third TRAQ Course

The Texas Chapter of ISA will be hosting a third full TRAQ course this year. It will be in Austin at the City of Austin Permitting and Development Center on December 6-8, 2021. You can register here TRAQ Austin. (<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=wcwmqybab&oeidk=a07eia9165kf7e57561>)

The ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification program provides an opportunity for individuals in the arboriculture industry to expand their knowledge through education and training in the fundamentals of tree risk assessment. This qualification promotes the safety of people and property and provides tree owners and risk managers with the necessary information to make informed decisions to enhance tree benefits, health, and longevity.

Through education and training, arborists will learn strategies to systematically identify and assess tree risk. The qualified professional will:

- Be proficient with the fundamentals of limited-visual and basic tree risk assessment, as defined in the ISA Best Management Practices: Tree Risk Assessment;
- Understand the principles of advanced diagnostic techniques for assessing tree risk;
- Gather and synthesize information needed to assess tree risk; and
- Make reasoned judgments and recommendations for mitigating identified risk





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Photo courtesy of Heather McKnight

Texas Tree Critters

This photo was taken on a Lacebark Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) in League City, TX.

- Palo Verde Root Borer Beetle (*Derobrachus geminatus*/
Derobrachus hovorei)
- Adult beetles range from 3 to 5 inches in length
- Body is dark brown or black and may appear shiny or matte
- Segmented antennae
- Don't bite but have large jaws/mandibles
- Wings meet at midline of body
- Large spines on sides of thorax
- Feeds on:
Grubs: tree root tissue of various trees, including Palo Verde;
Beetles: nectar or fruit



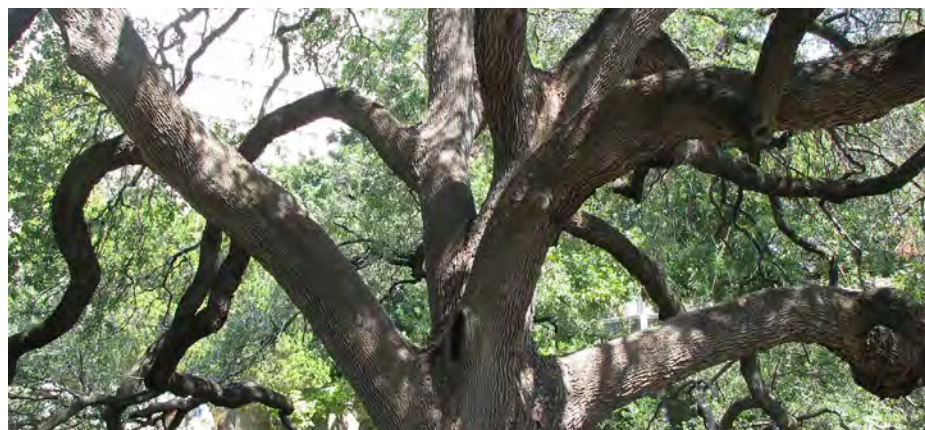
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Member Spotlight

Jake McWhorter

Why did you decide to join the Texas Chapter ISA?

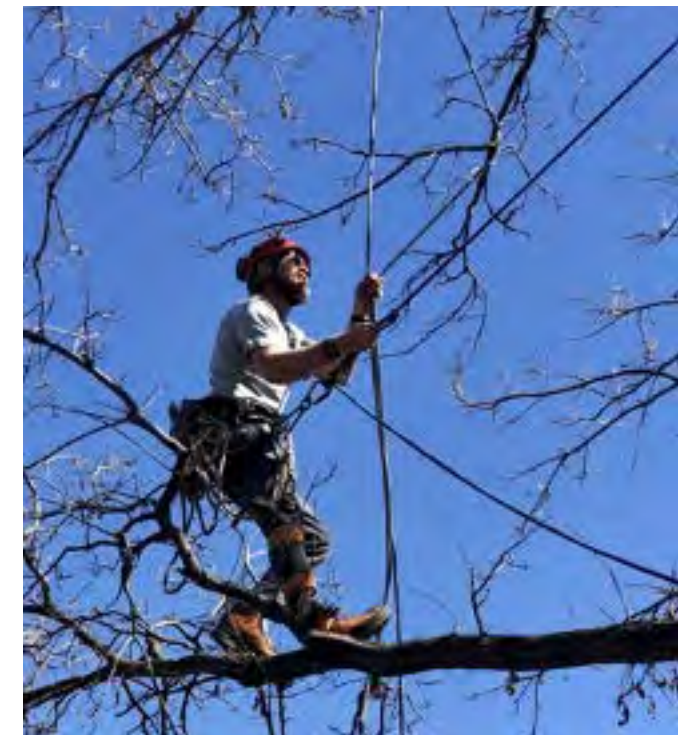
I originally joined as a student member while I was pursuing my Forestry degree at SFA. I think it is important to support your professional organization because it's your biggest advocate. Who else is going to be my voice and make me aware of industry issues?

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

I love arboriculture because it keeps me close to nature; I go crazy if I'm inside too long. I believe our industry is especially important in areas where trees need our help to thrive, like the Texas Panhandle! I have a small tree care business there.

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

If I am not taking care of trees, I'm planning a fly-fishing trip or a bird hunt. I love the sounds of Rocky Mountain streams and the world waking up in the duck marshes.



Deep Tree

What's on the mind of
Texas Chapter Members

thoughts...

Bark peeling of
Lacebark Elms,
Crape Myrtles,
and Sycamores
is much more
dramatic this
year, post-
winter storm.

What type of
fruit will freeze-
damaged citrus
trees (that are cut
below the graft)
produce in the
future?

Send your comments and
questions to **Heather
McKnight**
[heather.mcknight@
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Texas Oak Wilt Qualification - The Hybrid Experience

by April Rose, Consulting Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts

I recently attended the Oak Wilt Qualification course. I selected the hybrid option to better accommodate my work and parenting schedule. This involved spending 8 am - noon, then 1 pm - 4 in front of my computer; then, attending an in-person morning in the field a few weeks later in Hye, Texas. Two years ago, I would have declined the hybrid option, considering a full day of computer-based lecture a version of torture; but COVID-19 adaptations have taught me how to stay focused and make the most of screen-based learning.

Day 1 - Online -

The course started with biology and physiology lectures by Dr. Appel from Texas A&M University. This foundational information is key to understanding how Oak Wilt infects and affects trees. Dr. Appel transitioned to a lecture about the origins of Oak Wilt, the impact in Texas' rural and urban areas, how it spreads, how it kills trees, and how to identify Oak Wilt. He reviewed how to take samples, as well as prevention and control strategies.

His last lecture was about Oak Wilt versus other tree diseases or stressors. I especially appreciated this session because I have personally seen many people jump straight to the conclusion that a "sick" oak tree has Oak Wilt, without a methodical diagnostic process.

After lunch, Robert Edmonson, a biologist with Texas A&M Forest Service reviewed the TFS Oak Wilt Suppression Project, including their practices and protocols. This included information about their public education efforts and cost-share resources that are available to landowners. Robert also reviewed prevention and control strategies including trenching and planting.

For me, the post-lunch lecture was the hardest time to stay focused, not because of Robert but because of the time of day and my waning attention. Should you find yourself in a very long on-line experience, I might suggest these options to stay focused: (1) move your body a bit; (2) stretch, do

jumping jacks, anything to refresh yourself; (3) Do tasks that allow you to stay focused and move your body: fold laundry, stretch, chop veggies and color or draw.

While 20 people were participating online, the speakers were simultaneously lecturing to an in-person audience of 25. This dual lecture approach works but it can be hard for the speaker to stay in the place where the virtual audience can see and hear them, but for the most part it worked.



Day 2 - In the Field - I car-pooled with colleagues to the Hye Meadow Winery in Hye, Texas for Day 2. It was a lovely site for the field portion and exam. It is centrally located to many Texas cities and provides an excellent case study in Oak Wilt diagnosis and management over time. We reviewed the history of Oak Wilt at this site, discussed the management efforts, looked at symptomatic trees and recently installed trenches, and watched Gene Gehring inject a Live Oak. The instructors also reviewed the different injection technologies and

provided a step-by-step demonstration of how to take Oak Wilt samples. We also had a rare find of the fruiting body of Cotton Root Rot. I probably would have mistaken it for dried out animal vomit if Dr. Appel did not explain the rare find!

We had lunch together, then took the exam. After completing the exam, Gene discussed the questions that were missed with each person individually. This feels like an important opportunity for feedback and learning that is rarely included in this type of evaluation.

A few of us gathered on the patio afterward to catch up; for many it was their first tree workshop or social experience in quite a long time. I asked colleagues who were also in the hybrid session for their thoughts, and this is what I learned from Maryellen Bell and Ashleigh Cibelli-Pettus:



Why did you enroll in the TOWQ?:

I've been away from Texas for a couple of decades, and upon returning I felt I needed to refresh my understanding of Oak Wilt. Oak trees have such an impact on our lives and maintaining them in the conditions that allow them to thrive is instrumental to survival—Maryellen Bell

Favorite part of TOWQ?:

The field experience was my favorite part of the training. I especially enjoyed Gene's demonstration of the Propiconazole systemic fungicide injection procedure—Maryellen Bell

The best part of the training for me was listening to insights and Oak Wilt experiences from all the other arborists who were taking the training. Sadly said, but in the name of education and learning, [it was helpful] seeing a tree diagnosed with Oak Wilt and the symptoms associated with it—Ashleigh Cibelli-Pettus

Why choose the hybrid option?

Convenience to accommodate schedules—April Rose

If virtual training continues, I would suggest breaking up the classroom portion into a couple of sessions, reducing the time frame each day. It can be difficult to stay focused for an entire day of classroom theory, even when in the room—Maryellen Bell

The hybrid experience worked out great for me, and I would recommend the approach to colleagues. Although, I needed to do a hybrid course because it was better for my situation, the online portion was a little challenging. I wasn't able to hear audience questions, and the speaker had to stand in one spot for me to hear him clearly. I felt I missed some important questions and answers from the audience. I do think having the option of a hybrid class is beneficial for certain circumstances—so everyone has the opportunity to join—Ashleigh Cibelli-Pettus



Above Right: Gene Gehring demonstrating macro-injection at the root flare.

Bottom Right: Fruiting body of cotton root rot.



Left: Dr. Appel discusses chemical control.

Bottom: Attendees gather for field observations.

Main pros/cons?

Pros are convenience of saving driving time. Cons are the lack of in person participation and following the conversation of others in the room —Maryellen Bell

Pros : It's an adaptable approach, and it gives people flexibility.

Cons: Online portion sound issues—it felt like I missed out on questions and answers for participants and the giveaway.

—Ashleigh Cibelli-Pettus

What else?

I've never seen symptomatic Oak Wilt leaves before this qualification training—Ashleigh Cibelli-Pettus
A very interesting topic and I look forward to updates and shared information to keep my skills sharp—Maryellen Bell

I think the most important reason for attending the Texas Oak Wilt Qualification, hybrid or in-person, is to soak up the collective wisdom and experience shared by Gene Gehring, Dr. Appel, and Robert Edmonson. Combined, they have spent nearly 100 years studying this disease! Whether you work with Oak Wilt regularly or not, it is incumbent on Certified Arborists to keep learning, stay informed on the important issues in their field—especially those that have a big impact within their state.



Oak trees have such an impact on our lives and maintaining them in the conditions that allow them to thrive is instrumental to survival.”

— Maryellen Bell



Texas Tree Conference:

September 29 – October 1, 2021

It's time to register for the 41st Texas Tree Conference which is back and Live in Waco, September 29 – October 1, 2021. Keeping the proud tradition of having the biggest and best, this year's Texas Tree Conference offers our members and all arborists several events to choose from. There is also the best Trade Show featuring favorite exhibitors with the newest equipment, products, and services our industry has to offer!

Do you want to attend a tree academy, the conference, or a tree school? Pick one. Pick two. Send your team! There will be separate tracks for Commercial, Municipal, and Utility Arborists. Each track will feature nationally known speakers presenting the latest in tree research and arboriculture.

The 2021 conference theme, "Little Tree – Big Shade," covers many topics and offers an amazing line-up of world class presenters and researchers. Topics such as "How Trees Grow Old and Fall Over," "The Unqualified and Incidental Line Clearance Arborist: How do we keep them safe?" "Tree Failure from Sidewalk Construction and Storms," "Inspiring the Next Generation of Arborists, Your Ash is on the Line!" and so many more!!! Some of our featured speakers this year include: Dr. John Ball, Randall Miller, Dr. Ryan Klein, Dr. David Appel, Dr. Emily Landon, Erick Palacios and more.

This year, there are two Tree Academies offered on Wednesday, September 29th. Academy One: "Safety and Performance in Trees" features Dr. John Ball and Travis Vickerson. With the continued innovation and improvement in climbing technics and equipment, this academy will go over practices to safely improve performance and apply new technics using the latest equipment available to climbers. Academy Two will feature Geoffrey Kempter, one of the authors of the ISA Utility Specialist Certification Study Guide. This academy is an overview of the ISA Utility Specialist study guide and will include discussion of topics to prepare for the Utility Specialist Certification. Topics covered include: safety, program management, pruning, Integrated Vegetation Management, electrical knowledge, storm preparation and response, and communications.

On Friday October 1st, there are the English and Spanish Texas Tree Schools. The Tree Schools are developed to provide our tree climbers and their supervisors with techniques, safe use, and operations of equipment in the field. The Spanish Tree School is led by world-class climbers and tree experts Eduardo Medina, Erick Placios, Mark Duff, and Bill Greene. The English Tree School is led by



past Texas Champions Tree Climber, Guy LeBlanc and Paul Johnson, Past President of the ISA.

With your conference registration, you can also attend the Wednesday Tree Social and Thursday Awards Banquet. The always popular Thursday Exhibitor Social is also included with your conference registration. This is a great time to visit with exhibitors!

Did someone say "silent auction?" Yes, there will be a silent auction this year. There is still time to donate "tree art," services, products, and goodies that make silent auctions fun. Please contact Ginny Sills if you would like to provide something for the silent auction. Ginny Sills: ginny.sills@gmail.com

The ISA Texas Board and Conference Committee look forward to seeing you "in person" in Waco. With conference a couple of months away, now is a great time to register and reserve your overnight accommodations!

Be sure to check out the conference website for more information and details for the 41st Annual Texas Tree Conference <https://isatexas.com/events/2021-texas-tree-conference/>

See y'all in Waco!

Mark C Bird

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORCULTURE, TEXAS CHAPTER

41st Texas Tree Conference & Trade Show

September 29 - October 1, 2021

The Texas Chapter of *International Society of Arboriculture* (ISA Texas) will host the **41st Texas Tree Conference and Trade Show** in Waco,

Texas for certified arborists and tree care professionals to learn the latest research, trends and issues affecting tree care and related green industries. Our state conference is the only one of its kind and though we are expecting over 1,000 attendees this year, we will take the necessary social distancing precautions to help keep our exhibitors, members, and guests safe.

Each year we hold a **silent auction and all proceeds go to local research, scholarships for arboriculture & urban forestry [college] students and other state-wide urban forestry/arboriculture initiatives**. This year's theme, *Little Tree, Big Shade*, illustrates the noticeable benefit of trees and it is particularly appreciated during our long summers where finding any semi-cool spot across the state becomes near impossible!

Your support of the Silent Auction helps the ISA Texas Chapter promote the professional practice of arboriculture, and foster greater public awareness of the benefits of trees. These donations can be your business's products or services, a home improvement store gift card, passes or vouchers to family activities, hunting and/or fishing trips (or supplies), hand tools, power tools or personal protective equipment/gear. Over the years, handcrafted and artisan items, particularly tree or nature themed items, create a big draw to the silent auction.

Please let me know if you have any questions, need to schedule a donation drop-off time or would like further information in becoming a vendor or volunteer at the conference.

Sincerely,
Ginny Sills
2021 Silent Auction Coordinator
ginny.sills@gmail.com | (972) 268-4653

Visit our website for more details about the 2021 ISA Texas Tree Conference

www.ISATexas.com/Events/2021-texas-tree-conference/



2021 Events Update

Entomology Webinar Series – Available on Demand at [isatexas.com/events](https://www.isatexas.com/events)

Session 1: Pesticide Laws and Reg Update – Laura Miller, Horticulturist Tarrant County Agrilife Extension

Session 2: Ento 101 – Molly Keck, Entomologist Bexar County Agrilife Extension

Session 3: Ento 102 – Molly Keck, Entomologist Bexar County Agrilife Extension

Session 4: Common Insects of Trees and Landscape Plants Molly Keck, Entomologist Bexar County Agrilife Extension

Session 5: Integrated Pest Management of Tree and Landscape Pests Molly Keck, Entomologist Bexar County Agrilife Extension

August 3-5 TNLA Nursery/Landscape Expo San Antonio Convention Center, San Antonio Texas

September 28-30 Texas Tree Conference, Waco Convention Center

October 15 Spanish Tree Workshop

Sponsors are the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council & TCIA

8 am to 1 pm Topic - Ground Operations in Tree Care Instructor - Noe Cardenas

Houston area - Missouri City Community Center, 1522 Texas Parkway Missouri City, 77489. Class will be limited to the first 50 registrants. Cost: \$25. You may apply for ISA CEUs. Stay tuned for registration details in coming months.

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.

Certification Exams

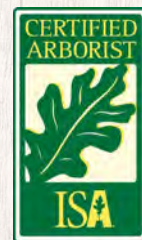
8/6/21 San Antonio, TX check in 8:00 a.m.

9/8/2021 Austin, TX check in 9:00 a.m.

10/1/21 Waco, TX check in 12:00 noon

11/5/21 Fort Worth, TX check in 7:30 a.m.

12/10/21 Dallas, TX check in 7:30 a.m.



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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: grows in the Rocky Mountains.

LAST MONTH'S TREE ID



Last month's Tree ID Winner:
Courtney Blevins

Tree was: *Tilia americana* var.
caroliniana

This issue's challenge was
provided by Courtney Blevins.