

# In the Shade

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



Texas Chapter  
International Society  
of Arboriculture





# Arbor Rx<sup>®</sup>

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ArborPlex forms the foundation of the Arbor Rx Program.





“How beautiful leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days.”  
— John Burrough

Hello to all ISA Texas Members—

As I write this last article of the year, it is hard to not to feel good about the great year we have had and the exciting opportunities for the coming year. The Texas Chapter of the ISA Staff, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Committee Members, and Volunteers who met throughout the year to plan and produce the many outstanding events last year are already hard at work organizing and planning a calendar full of events for our members this coming year.

The best way to keep up with the latest trainings is the ISAT website events page. It is on the events page where you will find upcoming events, as well as online learning opportunities.

If you missed any part of the 2021 Texas Tree Conference, “Big Tree Little Shade,” there over 20 recorded sessions you can view and earn CEUs. We are committed to providing the highest level of expertise and quality at each event. The training and events calendar is updated regularly, and registration online is easy. As a matter of fact, if you haven’t been checking the events calendar, you may have missed the TRAQ Course and Assessment December 6-8 in Austin. Other events by ISA Texas already on the calendar for December include the Annual ISA Texas Board Retreat and Planning Meeting in College Station, December 13-14.

There is also the ISA Virtual Conference, December 13-15. Looking ahead to January, February, March, and April you have opportunities to register for Oak Wilt Qualification and 2-year renewal offered online, another full TRAQ Course in Austin, the NTUFC in Hurst, a Bilingual Tree

Worker Workshop in San Antonio, a Tree Diagnosis Workshop in College Station, a TRAQ Course in Dallas, TRAQ in Houston, the Women’s Climbing Workshop planned for April, and that’s not all...

In response to the members interest in Master’s Series trainings, we will be offering a 2-day Masters Series Pruning Workshop. Dates and location for this training will be announced soon. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season with family and friends, and Best Wishes for the New Year!

I am very excited to be your ISA Texas President,

Marc C Bird

P.S. Be sure you are keeping up with the ISA Texas Calendar of events, or you will be missing out.





## Editor's Note



Greetings, fellow Tree People!

As the year comes to an end (and our HVAC systems--bless their hearts--are struggling with the temperature fluctuations... here on the Gulf Coast, I'll turn on the heater one day and need the air conditioning the next), it's time to reflect on 2021. Be sure to spend some time alone in the forest to think and enjoy the stillness of Winter. In the meantime, you'll find tree-related goodies in this issue, including two new programs from Texas A&M Forest Service on page 5 and on page 7. Also, check out the "Tour des Trees" event on page 14.

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 the cooler weather!

Sincerely,

Heather McKnight



## Love Trees? Tell the world

Revenue from the license plate funds urban forestry projects in Texas communities



[www.txufc.org](http://www.txufc.org)



## Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture

Are you a Chapter member? If not, go to [www.isatexas.com](http://www.isatexas.com) and join today!

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

## In the Shade

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## OUTDOOR THERAPY FOR VETERANS



### Texas A&M Forest Service Unites Veterans and Trees: Utilizing the Outdoors for Veterans Therapy

**G**oal: Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives promotes the mental health benefits of being in forests and around trees.

As we reflect on Veterans Day, we are spotlighting an emerging form of therapy that appears to be both popular, and effective, for veterans in the civilian world – outdoor or wilderness therapy.

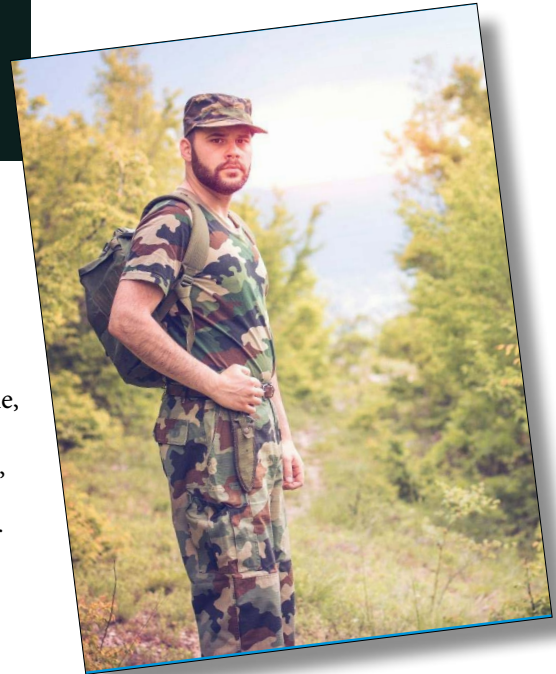
Forest Therapy is one branch of Outdoor Therapy, but it is grounded in

a practice that began centuries ago, and was formally recognized in 1982 Japan as "shinrin-yoku" – or forest bathing. And an emerging body of research is proving that forest therapy might actually be one of the most powerful, and scientifically quantifiable, forms of therapy available to veterans.

We want to promote Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives and the therapeutic benefits that forests can provide to our Veterans.

For more information, check out Facebook and Instagram

@TexasForestService and @HealthyTreesHealthyLives and retweet from Twitter @TXForestService and @HealthyTreesHL and read the full article at <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/content/article.aspx?id=31896>



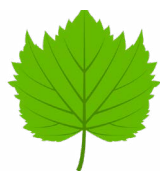
## On the Cover

Clusters of round cones decorate the Bald Cypress tree.



# New Members

|             |                 |                |    |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|----|
| Joshua      | Junier          | Waxahachie     | TX |
| Dominic     | Migliozzi       | Lake Dallas    | TX |
| Pablo       | Garcia Becerra  | Zapopan        |    |
| Jalisco     |                 |                |    |
| Brandon     | Winfrey         | Flower Mound   | TX |
| Ty          | Pannell         | Blanco         | TX |
| Bernardo    | Denovo          | Lockhart       | TX |
| Edison      | Zavala          | Kyle           | TX |
| Edwin       | Guevara         | Austin         | TX |
| Elmer       | Palacio         | Austin         | TX |
| Felix       | Jimenez         | Dale           | TX |
| Jorge       | Orellana        | Austin         | TX |
| Jose        | Velasquez       | Austin         | TX |
| Juan        | Guevara         | Austin         | TX |
| Julio       | Rivera          | Austin         | TX |
| Justin      | Quintanilla     | Corpus Christi | TX |
| Marlon      | Guevara         | San Marcos     | TX |
| Norm        | Daley           | Dallas         | TX |
| Luis        | Vasquez         | Nixon          | TX |
| Garth       | Engen           | Kyle           | TX |
| David       | Alvarez         | Austin         | TX |
| Brady       | Braun           | Falls City     | TX |
| Andrew      | Bland           | Lakeside       | TX |
| Jonatan     | Orellana        | Austin         | TX |
| Luis        | Maldonado-Cotto | Porter         | TX |
| Marco       | Crosland        | Pilot Point    | TX |
| Amanda      | Wyrick          | Liberty Hill   | TX |
| Edward      | Ramirez         | San Antonio    | TX |
| Ricky       | Roberts         | Little Elm     | TX |
| Jack        | Christison      | Stafford       | TX |
| Christopher | Carrington      | San Antonio    | TX |
| Manuel      | Gomez           | Buda           | TX |
| Nathan      | Garrett         | Garland        | TX |
| Vicente     | Godoy           | Katy           | TX |
| Juan        | Garcia          | Cedar Park     | TX |
| Joshua      | Ross            | Kemp           | TX |
| Travis      | Nobles          | Sadler         | TX |
| Marcos      | Diaz            | lubbock        | TX |
| Jonathan    | Johnson         | Grand Prairie  | TX |
| Aaron       | Ellis           | Carrollton     | TX |
| Jessica     | Spencer         | Round Rock     | TX |
| Kathy       | Pannell         | Kerrville      | TX |
| Jordan      | Jozak           | Austin         | TX |
| Zachary     | Dones           | Fresno         | CA |
| Dominic     | Ripley          | Uvalde         | TX |
| Craig       | Reid            | Streetman      | TX |



## STREAMSIDE GREEN presents DR. TODD WATSON'S



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WHEN:  
January 20, 21 &  
February 3, 4, 2022

WHERE:  
Bryan, Texas, USA

ISA CEUs: 32

MORE INFO AT:  
[StreamsideGreen.com](https://StreamsideGreen.com)



## Texas A&M Forest Service Hosts 2nd Annual Leadership Institute



The Texas A&M Forest Service Leadership Institute hosted the kick-off session for its second class October 26 – 28 in College Station, Texas. The institute is a state-of-the-art leadership program that aims to be a transformative experience for participants, with aspirations of leaving a deep and lasting effect on their ability to lead in daily environments.

The leadership institute offers a constructive and inspiring learning environment, enabling opportunity for personal growth by giving participants access to tools and speakers that will strengthen their leadership skills.

“There are so many partners that don’t have access to this type of formal leadership training,” said Hughes Simpson, Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Systems Department Head. “We believe as an agency that by building the capacity of our partners through leadership training, we can help strengthen their organizations and help further the overall reach and mission of Texas A&M Forest Service.”

This year’s class boasts a diverse group of 25 members from differing natural resource organizations across the state including parks and recreation directors, fire chiefs, conservation managers and organization executive directors.

“I felt very honored to be selected to participate in the second class of the Texas A&M Forest Service Leadership Institute,” said Ted Stevens, Texas Forestry Association Education Director. “I knew I would be participating with a lot of influential people from all over the state and have the opportunity to not only network, but also learn from their experiences and perspectives. The skills and relationships I develop through the Institute will be extremely beneficial to me as I communicate about the importance of sustainable forestry.”

The vision of the institute is to establish a program that will rally existing and emerging leaders within the fields of natural resources and increase their capacity and ability to enact meaningful change throughout the state of Texas.

“I spent many years in state government, and I have never seen a state agency put this much effort into people outside of their own organization,” said Stevens. “I think that says a lot about Texas A&M Forest Service and the impact they want to have around the state, to give partners the tools

to succeed professionally to move forward the mission of conservation.”

One key to success for the institute is dynamic and engaging speakers. In this session, participants heard from Frank Keck about core leadership skills, Dr. Steven Beebe about listening skills and Dr. Richard Grant about leveraging personality types in leadership settings.

“I find the best leaders are the most self-aware - they know who they are and where they’re going,” said Frank Keck, Texas A&M Forest Service Leadership Institute speaker and facilitator. “Our goal is to really help leaders in different natural resource capacities to develop themselves, to invest in these leaders to make a better Texas.”

The inaugural class was completely virtual in 2020

– 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the 25-member class still felt that they learned invaluable lessons and became a network to rely on.

“I have been working in economic development for 36 years and have been through many leadership classes from different organizations,” said Nancy Windham, President and CEO of the Texas Forest Country Partnership and inaugural class member. “But, I have yet to find one that was as impactful, and something I

could really use today in the workplace and at home as the Texas A&M Forest Service Leadership Institute.”

Each year, the leadership institute hopes to continue to grow and support local leaders while increasing the network of natural resource professionals across the state.

Over the next several months, the class will participate in monthly lunch and learns, networking opportunities and course activities. The class will graduate from the institute in April, after the second three-day session, which will have a new host of speakers and leadership trainings.

To learn more about the Texas A&M Forest Service Leadership Institute, the speakers and how to participate, visit <https://tfsleadershipinstitute.org>.

### Contacts:

Hughes Simpson, Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Systems Department Head, 979-458-6658, [hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu)

Leighton Chachere, Texas A&M Forest Service Communications Specialist, 979-458-6606, [leighton.chachere@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:chachere@tfs.tamu.edu)

Photo above: The Second Class—2021





# 3 Pruning Mistakes That Can Kill Your Trees and How to Avoid Them

By  
Bryan Hardin

Pruning may seem like a simple task to accomplish. But trying to prune without having proper knowledge can harm your trees. Pruning is not just about getting hold of your hand pruners and setting to the task. It is about upholding the beauty and health of your trees. If not done correctly, it can lead to irreversible damage.

That is why it is important to know about the common pruning mistakes. But first, let's understand what pruning means.



Pruning refers to selectively removing branches from a tree. The aim is to remove unwanted branches, improve the structure of the tree, and provide a boost to its healthy growth.

## What Is Pruning?

While the primary goal of pruning is focused on the tree's future health, it also serves other significant purposes. This includes offering protection against diseases and pests and optimizing fruit and flower yield.

If you are not trained in the art and science of pruning, you may cause the tree to suffer from stunted growth or even death. So, as a new tree owner or untrained owner, you need to first learn about how to go about the task of pruning.

### Pruning Mistakes to Avoid

Mentioned below are three pruning mistakes that can kill your trees and how to avoid them.

### Pruning at the Wrong Time

Are you aware that you need to prune trees at the proper time? Pruning trees at the wrong time can severely damage your tree. The right time to prune depends on the species as well as the condition of the tree. For instance, pruning of oak trees in Texas should be avoided from February to June to prevent the spread of oak wilt disease.

Generally, routine pruning done to remove diseased,

weak, or dead branches can be carried out at any time of the year. You can expect growth to be maximum if pruning is done before the growth spurt of spring.

It is a good idea to avoid heavy pruning just after the spring growth spurt, particularly in the case of weak trees. If you indulge in heavy pruning during the growing season (spring to late summer), you may starve the tree by getting rid of too many leaves. Also, if your tree is over-pruned in summer, it can become less resilient due to water scarcity.

## Using Unsharpened Tools to Prune

Dull tools can do considerable damage if you use them for pruning your trees. Most people may not think much about using unsharpened tools for pruning. But you can end up creating improper or rough cuts on the trees due to the use of such tools. This can lead to large tree wounds.

To avoid damaging your trees with dull tools, always use sharp pruning tools. Make sure that they are properly tuned and are right for the task. The common tools used for pruning trees include loppers, pruning shears, chainsaws, and pruning saws. You can also depend on a hand saw for trees when it comes to pruning.

## Making the Wrong Pruning Cuts

Wrong pruning cuts can do a lot of damage to your tree. Some of the common pruning cut mistakes to avoid include the following:

**Stub Cuts:** As the name indicates, stub cuts leave a stub protruding from a branch. This stub is so long that the branch collar is unable to grow over it.

**Flush Cuts:** Flush cuts refer to the pruning of a branch that removes the branch collar. Due to this, the tree cannot seal the cut with a callus as its natural defense mechanism is destroyed. Flush cut develops the risk of pathogens and pests entering the tree and damaging or killing it.

**Heading Cuts:** A heading cut can remove the end of a brand at a random point. This cut can leave the tree open to the attack of diseases and pests. It can also stimulate the tree to sprout several weak branches at the impacted end.

To avoid making pruning cut mistakes, you can follow this three-step process while pruning large branches:

Begin by making a shallow cut that is a couple of inches beyond the branch collar and on the underside of the branch. This will serve as a guard against a bark tear even if the branch falls when you are cutting it.

Make sure to cut through the branch at a distance of about 2 to 4 inches from the branch collar. The aim is to remove the branch leaving behind a small stub.

The last step is to cut off the stub. To do this, you will have to cut through the branch, making sure that it is just beyond the branch collar.

## In Conclusion

Pruning can help you have healthy, strong, and visually attractive trees. By avoiding the pruning mistakes mentioned above, you can ensure that your trees remain protected from damage, disease, and death and continue to enjoy healthy growth.



Brian Hardin is the Content Director at Sherrill Tree. He actively liaisons with Arborists and is also a passionate hiker. He loves sharing his expertise and insights through informative articles around hiking, tree climbing, their gears and accessories, advanced techniques, and much more. Brian is a tree hugger and proudly contributes to the growth of an eco-friendly and sustainable environment.

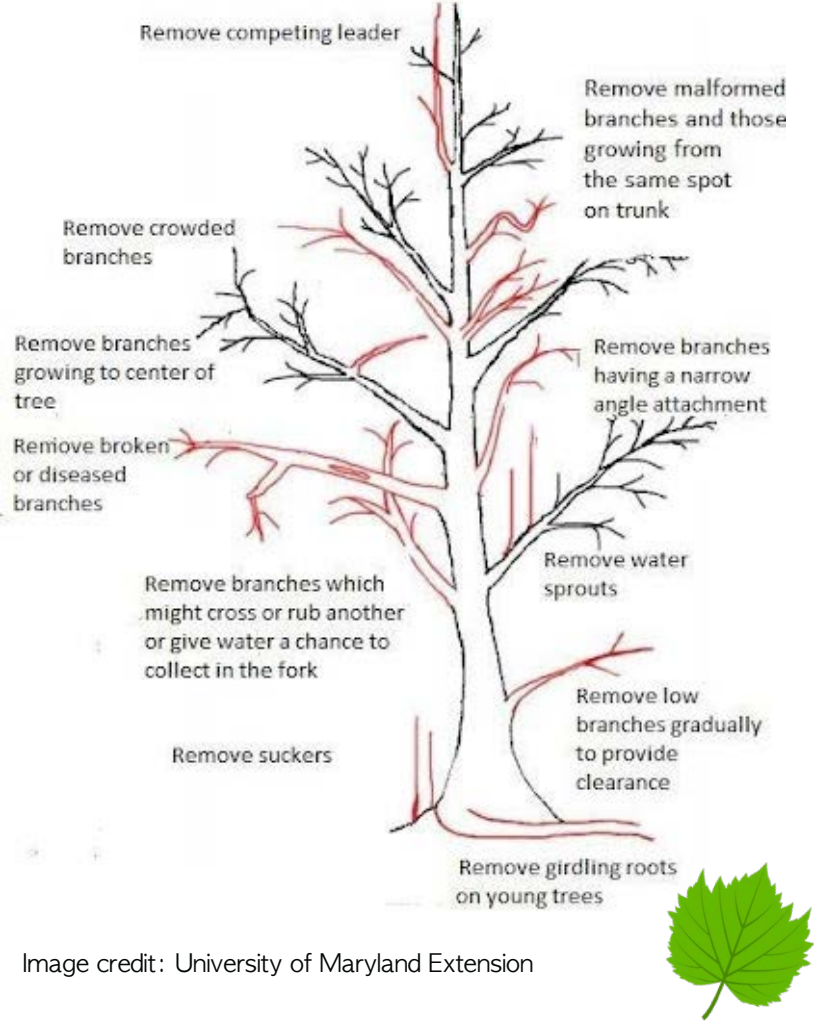


Image credit: University of Maryland Extension

# ANSI Standards Review

By Andrew Wimmel

Every tree, job and job site are unique. However, there are basic principles that apply to every situation. Today we are going to take a look at one of those, the job briefing.

ANSI Z133 defines a job briefing as; "The communication of at least the following subjects for arboricultural operations: hazards associated with the job, work procedures involved, special precautions, electrical hazards, job assignments, and personal protective equipment."

A hazard is the potential for harm (physical or mental). Typical hazards associated with arboriculture operations include, but are not limited

to, weather, terrain, traffic (vehicular/ pedestrian), chemical use, falling debris, pruning, chipping and stump grinding.

Work procedures such as the process of selecting an appropriate tie in location for a climbing system should be discussed.

Are electrical hazards present in the work area? Telecommunications lines, service drop (braided triple wire running power to your house), primary/secondary distribution lines? Reference Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) Tables 1, 2 & 3 of the Z133.

Job assignments, telling the team who does what. Where is the truck going to be set up, where are we staging equipment, identifying who is trained in aerial rescue techniques, where is the phone in case of an emergency?

Personal Protective Equipment



Above: Job briefing

(PPE) is required for many of our tasks. Cut-resistant leg protection, ear protection, eye protection, chemical resistant gloves, etc. are all examples of PPE required for various tasks.

For many jobs it takes less time to conduct a job briefing than it did for me to write up this for the newsletter. Take the time to think and talk about these things, it could save your life!



# Member Spotlight

## Suzie Johnson

I have worked in the Green/Tree Industry since 1980. As my career became more tree centric, I began attending various International (ISA) meetings. After many years, I chose to become certified and received my Arborist Certification in 2003, and I joined the Texas Chapter ISA the same year. Though I have spent many years working for various tree companies, I established ArborDocs, LLC with my son in 2010.

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

When I became certified, I had a thirst for knowledge. I wanted a direct connection to information, as well as other Arborists, regarding what was happening with trees in my own State. I felt like a trailblazer in those days, since I was one of very few women in our industry. Our local chapter is how I connected then and how I stay connected to the constant flow of new information we rely on. I have had some great mentors through this organization, and I thank every one of them for being willing to share their knowledge.

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

I love how passionate we (arborists) are about caring for trees. I am constantly amazed with the different ways trees communicate with us, each other, and their complexity. I believe trees and plants are vital to our health and well-being and couldn't imagine life without them. I love sharing with others how even a little bit of maintenance and attention can make a big difference in the health of their trees. This is a very competitive industry. The one thing I would love to see



more of in our industry is a willingness to learn new ways and to be more open with sharing knowledge (mentoring). None of us benefit from ignorance.

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

I love reading historical literature, but as I have gotten older and my eyes struggle to read anything smaller than a stop sign I have converted to audio books. I am a closet decorator (not meaning I decorate closets) but I'm in the closet about it. I love to cook, and my God daughter says I throw a mean pajama party. Most of all, I love caring for other people. Besides trees, it is my great passion.

## Texas Tree Care Business Owner's Arbor Chats

Participants in the monthly Texas Tree Care Business Owner's Arbor Chats...we want to hear from you! Keep your eyes peeled for an email with a survey on topics you'd like to hear about/discuss at our monthly Arbor Chats.

As a reminder, these sessions occur monthly on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm via Go To Meeting and are open exclusively to Texas Chapter Members.





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**CenterPoint Energy  
Foundation announces  
\$1 million in  
environmental  
contributions**

**Grants to The Nature Conservancy  
and The Arbor Day Foundation  
reinforce company’s commitment  
to a net-zero economy.**

CenterPoint Energy (NYSE: CNP) today announced that through its charitable foundation a \$1 million contribution will be made to two environmental organizations focused on land and water conservation, environmental education, and tree plantings to help build sustainable futures for communities the company serves.

The Nature Conservancy and The Arbor Day Foundation will each receive a \$500,000 grant from the CenterPoint Energy Foundation to support restoration of the Mississippi River and provide environmental education and tree plantings to elementary school students throughout the company’s eight-state service territory.

“In 2020, we promised our stakeholders we would execute on strategies that would transform CenterPoint Energy into a leading utility company,” said Dave Lesar, President and Chief Executive Officer of CenterPoint Energy. “Top performance requires a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, and today we are taking a significant step with the announcement of two contributions to leading environmental organizations that will help build sustainable futures for our communities.”

Collaboration with The Nature Conservancy will focus on restoration of the Mississippi River in two key regions – the headwaters in Minnesota

and Indiana, and the Gulf Coast region in Texas and Louisiana.

The headwaters region initiatives will be comprised of nature-based solutions, including increased floodplains, agricultural best management practices, and comprehensive education to increase awareness of the importance of keeping pollutants out of clean water and mitigating flood risks. The Gulf Coast region efforts will support the building of oyster reefs to clean the freshwater flowing into the Gulf of Mexico, contributing to the success of Gulf-wide fisheries.

“The Mississippi River Basin and Gulf of Mexico are two critically important natural systems in North America,” said Trey Cooke, The Nature Conservancy’s Director for the Mississippi River Basin Program. “The Nature Conservancy’s goal is to reduce nutrient loading in the Mississippi River Basin by 20% by 2025. CenterPoint Energy’s support will be critical for helping us reach this goal.”

The contribution to The Arbor Day Foundation will provide environmental education curriculum to third graders throughout CenterPoint Energy’s service territory. The curriculum will include classroom activities and a tree for students to plant at their home. Engaging students will teach them the importance of caring for the Earth, with 9,000 trees to be planted throughout CenterPoint Energy’s service territory of Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Minnesota, and Texas.

“Part of the Arbor Day Foundation’s mission is to inspire the next generation of tree planters,” said Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation. “We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to do so with CenterPoint Energy. This grant is not only an investment for the preservation and conservation of the environment, but also an investment in the children who will benefit from a greener future

that we are all working toward.”

Lesar added, “The CenterPoint Energy Foundation is dedicated to preserving our environment and encouraging our communities to engage in sustainable practices. Our contributions to and collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and The Arbor Day Foundation further demonstrate our commitment to move toward a net-zero economy and provide environmental benefits for years to come. We see these investments as the beginning of impactful relationships and actions to build a cleaner future for all our stakeholders.”

The CenterPoint Energy Foundation is committed to conservation and environmental education as a component of our funding priorities. We have supported organizations at local, state and national levels for over a decade in conserving land, providing environmental education, building and sustaining outdoor environments such as trails and nature preserves, and planting trees.



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emuennink@arborjet.com or 214-799-6115**

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# 2021 Tour Des Trees – Rollin’ the Rockies!

By Herminio Griego, Captain of Team Texas, 2021 Tour de Trees

I first heard about the Tour des Trees in 2018 when I saw an advertisement for the ISA National Conference in Ohio. In 2018, I had just started getting into road cycling and figured that if the Tour ever came to Texas, I would sign up. Fast forward to January 2020. When I received

I could.

On Thursday August 26th, my wife Michelle and I started our road trip to Colorado. We typically make the drive a 2-day trip and stopped in Lubbock the first day to visit with family. On Friday, we made it to Denver in the afternoon and stayed in the same hotel that the ride would leave from. We had a great time meeting everyone at the rider check-in and dinner reception on Saturday; and on Sunday, the Tour began.

**Day 1** – Denver to Boulder, CO – 77 Miles. The day started off with a 30-mile ride from the Denver airport to Golden, along the Sand Creek Regional Greenway system. Once we hit

Golden, we started our 25 mile climb up the legendary Golden Gate Canyon Road and Peak to Peak Highway to Nederland, CO. There was a lunch stop at Nederland. We crested at an elevation of 9,239 feet before starting our 22-mile descent into Boulder. There were scheduled rest stops at mile 31 and 55.

**Day 2** – Boulder to Estes Park, CO – 45 Miles. This was the shortest segment of the Tour, but it was the toughest. It was 45 miles of nothing but climbing. We started off at elevation 5,473 feet and climbed up to elevation 9,286 feet along two more classic cyclists’ routes: Olde Stage Road and Lefthand Canyon Drive. We stop at Jackleggers in Ward, CO for lunch and ended the ride just outside of Estes Park. Our hotel for the night was located at the base of Longs Peak, one of Colorado’s 14er’s. I’m not ashamed to admit that I needed help on a few of the climbs. Scheduled rest stops were at miles 8.5 and 22, but I took unscheduled rest stops at miles 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35.

**Day 3** – Estes Park to Fort Collins, CO – 64 Miles. This was my favorite day. The temperature was 45 degrees with very little wind. What was even better, was the ride to Fort Collins was all downhill! It was a nice reward after 2 days of climbing. There was an awesome downhill segment after Estes Park in which I posted a top speed of 50 mph! We made it to Fort Collins in no time and had lunch on the campus of Colorado State University. After lunch we planted a tree on the campus of CSU and rode a mile to our hotel. Rest stops were at miles 24 and 49.

Every rider that I met during the Tour was kind, friendly and very supportive. They knew I was a first time Tour de Trees participant and took the time to introduce themselves to me and the other first-time riders. Pete Smith told me to say “Hi” to everyone in Texas for him. Some even stuck by my side during the hard uphill climbs. For most of the 3 days, I found myself keeping pace with a group of guys and gals from Wisconsin and Indiana. We were always at the back of the group and labeled ourselves the “Back-Pack Crew.”

In the end, I can see why there are numerous Tour Des Trees veterans. There were riders that have done the Tour 5, 17 and 20+ times. It is a very close group of tree care professionals, who just also happen to be cyclists that I’m glad to now be a part of.

I want to thank ISA Texas and its membership for their donations and support. From what I’ve heard, the 2022 Tour Des Trees will be in Iowa. I’ve never been to Iowa, but I know they don’t have any mountains, so it should be less challenging than Colorado. My wife and I have already started planning. The Tree Fund usually announces the Tour info around January. Hopefully next year, there will be a few more riders from Texas.

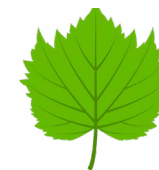


Photo by Chris Jackson

the email notification that the 2020 Tour Des Trees would be in Colorado, I knew I had to sign up. Colorado has been my second home for the past 5 years. My wife, Michelle, and I visit Colorado at least once a year to spend time with family and friends. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 tour was switched from an in-person ride to a virtual ride. Nonetheless, I was still able to raise \$2,000 for the Tree Fund and ride about 300 miles. At the end of the virtual ride, the Tour Des Trees staff did acknowledge that if there was an in-person ride in 2021, that it would be in Colorado.

In May 2021, riders received the notification that the ride was on, and it would be in-person in Colorado the week of August 29th to September 3rd. I immediately registered, created my fundraising page, and started planning for the trip. I knew that the ride would be both mentally and physically challenging, but I was up for it. My training consisted of 30-40 miles rides on the weekend and 20 miles during the week. I wasn’t quite sure how to train, but knew I had to ride as many miles as



Photos by Michelle Herrera





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## 2022 Events Update

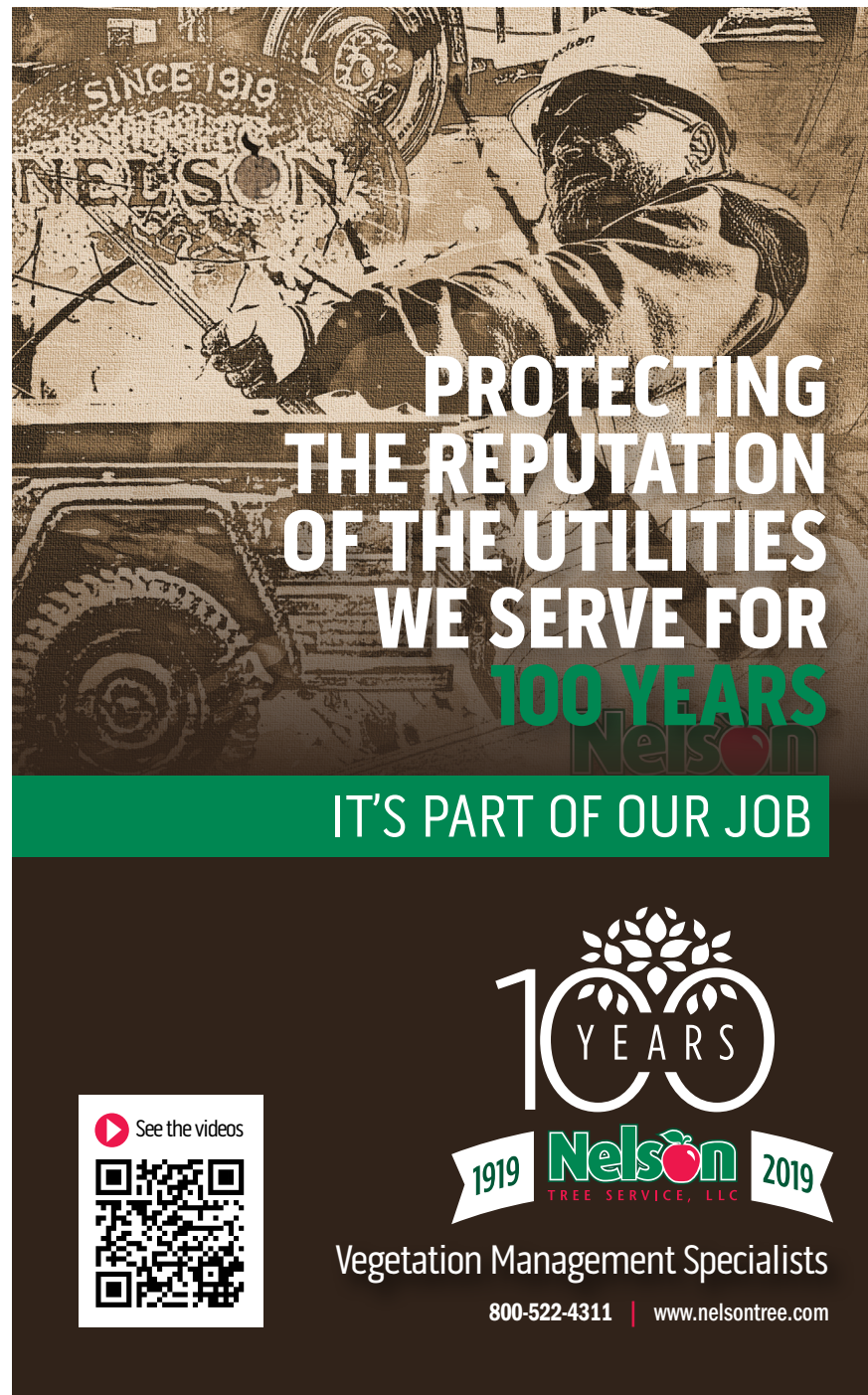
The ISA Texas Education committee is planning a full slate of in-person events in 2022. A full TRAQ course is scheduled for January in Austin and Dallas; this course is scheduled for April in Houston. Two TRAQ renewals will be held this year. We are working with the Plant Disease Lab to again host the Diagnosis workshop in College Station over Spring Break. The Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification workshop will likely be scheduled in April. In May and June, Texas Oak Wilt Qualification workshops will be held in Glen Rose and Fredericksburg. A Masters Series Pruning workshop is in the planning stages.

One positive impact from COVID is that we will continue hosting webinars. The TOWQ renewal will be done completely online. We are also planning an online introduction to plant pathogens series, like the entomology series we hosted last year.

ISA Texas is again sponsoring and assisting with the North Texas Urban Forestry Conference in Hurst, sponsored by Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council. ISAT will also sponsor and assist with the Bilingual Workshop, hosted by the San Antonio Arborist Association. The Women's Tree Climbing Workshop will be held in April. ISAT will be a sponsor.

Remember to renew your ISA Texas membership. Members have the opportunity to register for workshops a week before the registration link is emailed to the entire mailing list.

Please consult  
[www.isatexas.com](http://www.isatexas.com) for the latest events updates.



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12/10/2021 Dallas, TX check in 7:30 AM

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### THE MYSTERY ENDURES!

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 June's Tree ID Winner:  
Courtney Blevins

Tree was: *Tilia americana* var.  
*caroliniana*

This issue's challenge was  
provided by Courtney Blevins.