

In the Shade



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
SPRING 2022



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International Society
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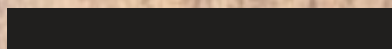
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“

Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!' ”

—Robin Williams



Hola and a belated Pi Day to everyone,

I realize this article will be read long after Pi Day, but I thought it would be a little fun to remember uses of Pi/Pie in the world of trees.

To start, when we measure a tree, we convert the circumference to diameter by dividing the circumference of the tree by Pi – 3.14, giving us the DBH. And who does not like Pie-- especially a pie made with the fruit of trees?? Pecan, Peach, Apple, Pear, Lemon, Cherry, Key Lime are all popular pies we like. I bet some of y'all have some fruit pie recipes you have made from trees' fruit like Mulberry, Avocado or Papaw. If you include other tree nuts, the list gets longer! Oh and don't forget Pizza Pie...

I thought I would be giving an exciting update on the ISA Texas Strategic Planning Committee work scheduled for this past February; but due to me testing positive for COVID, we have rescheduled for May 4th and 5th. We have assembled a great committee to work on the next 3-Year Plan. Please share your ideas and vision for what we can do to make our ISA Texas the best chapter for our members.

If you are not checking the ISA Texas website, you are missing out on amazing training and educational opportunities. As I am writing, the Tree Diagnosis Workshop is concluding in College Station. You will have also missed out on the 2-day Master's Series Workshop: The Science of Pruning in Georgetown. In April and May, there are TRAQ and Oak Wilt Qualification opportunities. The Women's Climbing Workshop in San Marcos is officially sold out. In

July, Tree Pathology 101 with Dr. Appel will be offered as a 5-part webinar series.

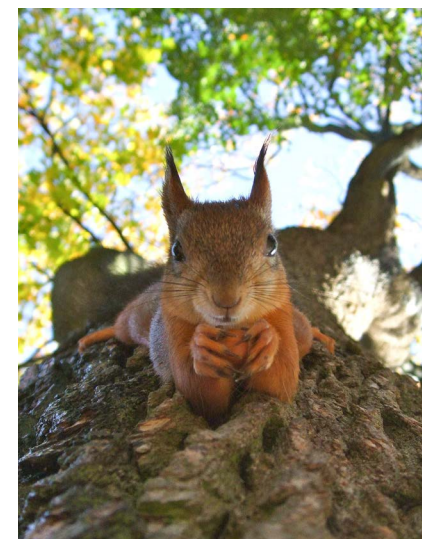
Looking ahead at the Texas Tree Conference schedule, everyone should note that the dates are September 27-29. The conference start date is Tuesday, September 27th and the end date is Thursday, September 29th.

Speaking of the Texas Tree Conference, it is not too early to begin thinking about nominations for the 2022 Trees Tree Awards. Consider submitting nominations for: Arborist of the Year, Arboricultural Project of the Year, Outstanding Landscape Improvement, and the Outstanding Community Forestry Program award.

Please share your suggestions and ideas for how ISA Texas can serve you our members by providing quality services, events, and training opportunities; email us at: isatexas.com

Ciao,

Mark C Bird



Editor's Note



Greetings, fellow Tree People!

Spring is here! Here on the Gulf Coast, we're enjoying crawfish boils and strawberry picking while watching the bulbs emerge from their winter slumber (between rain showers). The garden centers and nurseries are packed with people ready to plant veggies, herbs, flowers...and play in the soil. And, of course, there's all of the chocolate Easter candy—which makes you feel like a raccoon eating out of a trash can afterwards—but it's so delicious!

And...it's time for "Spring Cleaning." Check out the "Spring Cleaning" and spiffing up of the Ranger Oaks in Seguin on page 15 and the Champion Rio Frio Oak on page 18. Also, take a look at the "2022 Events Update" on page 6 and mark your calendars for the exciting events and classes this year. 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. Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Heather McKnight



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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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Spring 2022

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On the Cover

Fuzzy seeds of the American Elm (*Ulmus americana*).

Events Update

Do you see a workshop you would like to attend? Are you an ISA Texas Chapter member? Members receive an email with the registration link a week before the general email list. ISAT has offered or sponsored 14 different workshops so far this year. Eight of them were full within a week.

The full Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) in Houston and Dallas filled quickly. ISAT will offer another TRAQ course in December/January in either Austin or San Antonio. The Texas Oak Wilt Qualification (TOWQ) virtual option is not completely full but, Fredericksburg and Glen Rose filled quickly. If your Texas Oak Wilt Qualification expires soon, register for the online renewal. The “Tree Diagnosis from Field to Lab” was held on the Texas A&M campus again this year. The “The Science of Pruning” workshop was a hit with over 100 attendees. The Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification filled within a week. The Women’s Tree Climbing Workshop will be offered at the Texas State University Camp in Wimberley. After last year’s successful “Intro to Entomology” online series, we are planning a similar online “Tree Pathology 101” series for July.

Next Steps:

- 1) Mark your calendars NOW for the Annual Conference in Waco!
- 2) Renew your ISAT membership (Registration links emailed directly to members first)!
- 3) Look for the registration link emails from ISA Texas

April 11	TRAQ Renewal – Houston – Limited to 30 – 14 attendees
April 11-14	TRAQ – Houston – Limited to 20 – Sold Out
April TBD	Wildfire Risk Assessment Qualification – Limited to 25 – Sold Out
April 20-24	Women’s Climbing Workshop – Wimberley – Limited to 20 – Sold Out
April 20-24	Women’s Climbing Workshop – Wimberley – Limited to 20 – Sold Out
May 19-20	Texas Oak Wilt Qualification – Glen Rose – Limited to 25 – Sold Out
May 19	Texas Oak Wilt Qualification – Virtual – Limited to 25 – Space Available
May TBD	Texas Tree Climbing Championship
June 1	TOWQ renewal – Virtual
June 8	Texas Oak Wilt Qualification Fieldwork for Virtual – Fredericksburg – Space Available
June 1	TOWQ renewal – Virtual
June 8	Texas Oak Wilt Qualification Fieldwork for Virtual – Fredericksburg – Space Available
June 9-10	Oak Wilt Qualification – Fredericksburg – Limited to 25 – Sold Out
June 27-29	TRAQ – Dallas – Limited to 20 – Sold Out
July	Tree Pathology 101 with Dr. Appel
September 9-14	ISA Annual Conference
September 27-29	Texas Tree Conference - Waco

Live Oak Dropping Leaves in Early Spring

Live oaks, also known as evergreen oaks, are beautiful and stately trees in the landscape. However, live oaks are NOT true evergreens. They do drop their old leaves as new leaves emerge in the spring. This is NORMAL and NOT a disease problem.

These trees may appear sickly when temperatures begin to rise a little, typically in late January and in February. Symptoms that are observed typically include yellowing. In many cases, the leaves may have spots or blotches that are brown or black. Quite often, they discolor in a relatively short time. These leaves are senescing (aka dying off). The spots may be due to secondary infections by pathogens. Sometimes, these leaves may even have veins that turn brown while interveinal areas remain green. This particular symptom might be confused with a disease called “oak wilt.” Although the oak wilt fungus may attack the tree in the late winter and early spring, oak wilt symptoms are most often observed in the summer.



Above: Young live oak tree in the landscape.



Above: Senescing live oak leaves



Below: New buds on live oaks.



So what do I look for to determine if my tree is experiencing NORMAL leaf drop? Look closely at the senescing (dying leaves) leaves, particularly for new buds that are found at the base of the leaf petiole. This bud may be very small early on, but they become more prominent as the older leaves begin to die. Shortly after the old leaf drops, you should see new tiny leaves from those new buds. If these buds are present, your tree is most likely experiencing its normal yearly leaf cycle.


If you do not see any buds, check to see if the branches are brittle (snaps when you bend it) and are brown on the inside instead of greenish-white. That branch is most likely dead. In a normal tree, there will usually be some dead branches. However, you may have a problem if you find more than 10% of the branches on your tree are dead. In this case, it is recommended that you talk to a certified arborist or contact your local county Extension office for assistance.



Above: Dropping leaves can make the tree look sparse and sickly.

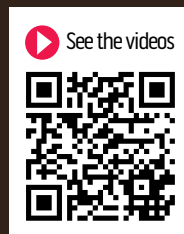
Prepared by Dr. Kevin Ong
Assistant Professor and Extension Urban Plant Pathologist
Texas AgriLife Extension Service; The Texas A&M University System
March 24, 2008

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 Rogelio Salgado Mesquite TX
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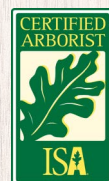
Certification Exams

6/8/2022 Dallas, TX check in 7:30 am

9/29/2022 Waco, TX check in at 11:30 am

11/18/2022 Ft. Worth, TX check in at 8:00 am

All certification holders with a certification expiration date that was set for 31 December 2021 will receive an extraordinary and complimentary* extension until 29 June 2022 to meet all recertification requirements and complete the recertification process.



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ANSI Standards Review
By Andrew Wimmel

Every tree, job and job site are unique. However, there are basic principles that apply to every situation. Previously, we looked at the Job Briefing. Today, we are going to take a look at Traffic Control.

In the March 2020 edition of Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, Dr. John Ball, Tim Walsh and Shane Vosberg state, “Transportation Incidents accounted for about 40% of all fatal occupational incidents in the United States during 2016”. Also, “The Pedestrian Vehicular Incidents subcategory includes workers struck by passing traffic. This was the source for 26 fatal (3.0%) and 11 nonfatal (2.5%) injuries.”

ANSI 3.5.1 states, “Traffic and pedestrian control around the worksite shall be established prior to the start of all arboricultural operations.”

Traffic control can be as simple as setting up a visible drop zone and having a ground worker designated to manage traffic flow (pedestrian or vehicular). ANSI 3.5.2 states, “Arborists and other workers having specific temporary traffic control zone responsibilities shall be trained in temporary traffic control techniques, device usage and placement, and how to work next to traffic in a manner that minimizes their exposure.”

Working in and around vehicular traffic presents a unique challenge and hazard

You and your company can hire a contractor to design, setup and manage the temporary traffic control zone. Our company uses this process in high traffic areas or near major roads.

Even if your company outsources this your team still needs to be trained on how to work in these areas.

ANSI 3.5.4 states, “The temporary traffic control zone should impede the flow of vehicular traffic as little as possible. Arborists and other workers should use the necessary devices that get the road user’s attention and provide positive direction in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).”

Texas, like many other states, has its own MUTCD. The temporary traffic control zone must be designed, set up and managed in accordance with the MUTCD.

Local municipalities may require permits or police officers present to manage traffic. Check with your local authorities on this.

Not every company works in high traffic areas. However, this hazard is present on many worksites. What are you doing to protect yourself, your fellow tree workers and the general public?



Member Spotlight

Susan Roth of Galveston, Texas

Why did you decide to join the Texas Chapter ISA?
I spent many years as a Master Gardner and realized I knew plenty about annuals and perennials but very little about trees.

What is something you love most about our industry and/or feel is very valuable?
I appreciate the requirement for CEU's. I'm grateful for the frequent learning and volunteer opportunities. The people are very friendly and willing to help answer questions.

Share a favorite hobby many people may not know about you or a fun fact.
I enjoy vegetable and herb gardening; and designing edible landscapes.



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TLC by ISA Texas for Ranger Oaks in Seguin, Texas, January 29, 2022

By Mark C Bird

On a chilly January morning, volunteers met in Seguin, Texas to give some much-needed TLC to the Ranger Oaks. The team of volunteers included climbers, trucks, and chippers from Huntsville, San Antonio, San Marcos, and Boerne with help from current and retired members of the Texas Forest Service.

So, how did ISA Texas get the opportunity to prune the Ranger Oaks (which are recognized in the Famous Trees of Texas book which was updated in 2015 by Gretchen Riley and Peter Smith in honor of the 100-year anniversary of the Texas Forest Service)?

The Texas Rangers Association reached out to Texas Forest Service and ISA Texas asking for recommendations on someone who could prune the trees and collect limbs. The limbs are to be used to create unique grips for specially commissioned pistols to celebrate the 200-year anniversary of the Texas Rangers. When the question was discussed, it seemed like a good idea for day of service.

I reached out to Mark Kroeze from the San Antonio Texas Forest Service office for suggestions and recommendations for putting together a special workday, not knowing what interest there may be. We both agreed that the trees should be pruned as soon as possible and before February 1st to follow the recommended guidelines for pruning oaks.

Fortunately, the San Antonio Arborist Association was holding their annual holiday gathering where members celebrate the season, eat a good lunch, get CEU's for great presentations and hang out with cool tree people. Mark Kroeze let

everyone attending the San Antonio Arborist Association party know about the plans and asked if anyone was interested in being part of the workday. He was able to recruit volunteers and equipment for the project. At the December ISA Texas Board meeting, I introduced the idea (and without asking, ISA Texas Board Member Star Quintero) raised her hand to volunteer!

Before any pruning was done, April Rose with Bartlett Tree Expert Company provided an assessment of the overall condition for recommended pruning and the long-term care and maintenance of the historic trees.

To start the day, the Texas Ranger Association represented by Lacy Finely provided tacos, coffee, and drinks and shared a brief history of the Texas Rangers and significance of the trees. Representatives of the Texas Rangers and the Rangers

Association were present to show their thanks to the volunteers. The Ranger Association also provided lunch, snacks, and drinks for everyone.

With climbers in the trees safely and properly pruning the trees, Mark Duff, current President of the International Wood Collectors Society and retired Texas Forest Service Forester, gave guidance on the



Above: Mark Duff, Dayziah Petruska, and Jacob West



Left: Mark Kroeze and Star Quintero



collection of the larger limbs for use in creating the grips for the commemorative pistols. Mark also collected a few samples, which he will turn into commemorative Ranger Oak pens.

It was so great to see everyone working together to give the Ranger Oaks so much love. I want to give a big Tree High Five to all the climbers, volunteers and the companies who supported the Day of Service for the Ranger Oaks especially:

Star Quintero, who drove all the way from Huntsville for the day

Christopher Carrington and **Joshua Kim** w/ Tree Wise Men

Antonio Tovar, **Nate Clark**, and **Jacob West** w/ The Bartlett Tree Expert Company, Stu Koch w/ 3-D Trees of Boerne.

A big thanks to **Patrick Brewer** and The Bartlett Tree Expert Company for the consulting provided before the trees were pruned and the truck and equipment provided for the day.

A big thanks to **Jordy Hagan** and the Tree Wise Men for providing a bucket truck and chipper.



From Field to Lab to... Whoa!

Jessica Harper

I don't know about you, but I haven't used, or probably even thought about, a microscope since high school biology. That is, until attending the diagnosis workshop in the new A&M Plant Pathology and Microbiology building this week...

Diagnosis of plants, trees, and turf in Texas has become synonymous with Texas A&M, and I would be willing to bet that you or someone you know has submitted a sample to the Texas A&M Plant Pathology lab at one time or another.

How many of us, though, have really thought about who and what is involved in receiving, processing, and analyzing that sample? Thanks to Sheila McBride and Dr. David Appel, ISA members are able to not only tour the facilities, but work the process from start to finish. It's very fascinating and so great to now be able to speak knowledgeably to others regarding samples sent in for Oak Wilt and other diagnoses.

Upon arrival on Day 1, I was greeted by the always smiling face of Gene Gehring to check me in and get my nametag. We then discussed diagnostics, did work with microscopes, and toured the lab. Day 2 involved more identification of diseases, symptoms, signs, etc. My favorite was the walking tour of trees around the Texas A&M campus and discussions of everything going on with each tree. For example, the Bur Oak tree in front of Nagle Hall had target cankers as well as Phomopsis fungi; a squirrel is cleverly using this tree as a landing for relaxing and eating nuts.

If you haven't had an opportunity to attend this workshop, I highly recommend it. It would be hard not to learn something new by attending and you'll earn some sweet CEU's.

Jessica Harper I TX-4658A
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A Living Legend

Gabriela Steinkamp – San Antonio, TX

Hundreds of years ago, a tiny oak sprouted less than a mile from what would later be known as the Frio River in Texas. The beautiful live oak grew strong over the years, surviving and thriving through droughts, storms, nearby settlements and flocking tourists. Now one of the largest live oaks in all of Texas, the tree has a circumference of approximately 295 inches, a height of 52 feet, and a canopy spread of nearly 100 feet. It was named State Champion Live Oak in 1988 and National Champion in 1989. Though



it has since been dethroned by another tree, the Rio Frio Oak remains a magnificent, local landmark with a storied history.

Settlers began developing the town of Rio Frio around this tree just after the American Civil War ended. The Lombardy Trading Company constructed an irrigation ditch nearby in 1866, which remains one of the oldest still in operation today in Texas. Due to its large size, the oak became a bearing point for building the entire town. The tree's broad branches shaded the town's first schoolhouse, which also served as a community center that hosted elections, religious services, court and various social gatherings.

In 1929, Mr. Leo L. Slover bought the property on which the oak lived. According to a newspaper article from the time announcing the sale, a house and store on site were also thrown in "for good measure." Three generations later the same family owns and cares for the property, headed by matriarch Judy Newman. Over 20 years ago, Judy connected with Mark Duff from the Texas Forest Service to

understand how to best care for the Rio Frio Landmark Oak.

Enter Bartlett Tree Experts! Mark knew the family would need the best team to provide any pruning and plant health care necessary to maintain the strength and safety of the tree for years to come. He enlisted our Company and we've been helping to care for the tree since. Every few years, Arborist Representatives from the San Antonio office and an elite crew of climbers volunteer their time with the Texas Forest Service to work on the oak. Services have included

pruning, bracing, fertilization, deadwood removal and spreading mulch.

Our most recent visit occurred this past February. A bright day with clear skies and 68° weather presented the perfect opportunity for some of our team to get up in that oak. San Antonio Arborist Crew Leaders Chris Maciel, Javier Rivas, Gustavo Rodriguez and Antonio Tovar, worked safely and efficiently to deadwood the tree and prune it away from the roof of the house. Arborist Representatives

Bobby Hearne and Jacob West along with Mark Kroeze, Urban Forester from the Texas Forest Service Urban Forester, provided support on the ground, dragging cuts to the chipper. Mark Duff from the Texas Forest Service and Arborist Representative Tony Villanueva were also on site offering support and supervision.

Throughout the day, neighbors came by to admire the tree and reminisce about growing up in Rio Frio. They told stories about the general store next to the big oak that closed in 1965. They remembered the family that lived in the home under the tree and the bed and breakfast they had once opened next door. It was amazing to hear how this tree has always been part of the fabric of the community.

After our crew completed the tree care, Judy and her family treated us to a barbecue lunch on the property with homemade bread, brisket, salads, corn, cookies, cake and pie. It was the perfect ending to a rewarding day and a way to create new memories under the canopy of this legendary oak tree.



Texas Tree Critters

Fall Webworm Caterpillar

- Hairy caterpillars reach about one inch in length
- Black head, greenish-yellow or pale yellow bodies with a dark stripe down back
- Feeds on many species, including: Pecan, Sweetgum, Elm, Black Walnut, Hickory, Maple, and Cherry



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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: In addition to its corky warts on the bark, this tree produces tiny, red or purple round fruit.

LAST MONTH'S TREE ID



The last winner was John Brokaw.

Tree was: Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)

This issue's challenge was provided by Mickey Merritt.