

In the Shade

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
SUMMER 2022**



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"

A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

—Greek Proverb

Greetings to all ISA Texas Members,

Here where I live in San Antonio, we have already set record high temperatures including the earliest back-to-back 100-degree days of the year. As if the heat is not enough, the drought conditions are making our soils drier and our trees more and more challenged.

It is the challenges that we as arborists are asked to meet that drive the Board of ISA Texas to continue to improve the services offered to our members. This May, a committee met to review and update the ISA Texas Strategic Plan with the objective to keep our organization focused on the vision that Texas Communities are best served when our trees are cared for and managed by qualified professionals using best practices. We are also committed to the mission of empowering our members to provide professional arboricultural and urban forestry services through education, research, and networking, creating greater public awareness of the value and care of trees.

A review of the ISA Texas on-going and innovation objectives found that our members have greatly benefited from a focused-forward thinking and inclusive initial Strategic Plan. The highlights of goals achieved include the number of online training and learning opportunities, as well as increasing the number of overall training dates and locations.

Going forward, ISA Texas will continue to focus on ways to identify and reach out to all individuals and groups within our membership and potential members to develop training and educational events and promote career development for all tree-related professions. The committee

will be reviewing the draft of the new Strategic Plan to present to our members at the annual meeting during the Tree Conference in September.

By the time you are reading this edition of "In the Shade," we will have new Texas Tree Climbing Champions. The 2022 Tree Climbing Championship will be at Cypress Bend Park in beautiful New Braunfels. To keep up with all the events and training opportunities, be sure you are checking the ISA Texas website regularly. Other upcoming trainings include: Oak Wilt Qualification renewal, June 1st (virtual), Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist, and Utility Exams, June 8th in Dallas, Texas Oak Wilt Qualification June 9th in Fredericksburg, and TRAQ. If you need CEUs, be sure to check isatexas.com for an amazing list of options from past webinars to sessions from the 2021 Texas Tree Conference.

The big event of the year, the 2022 Texas Tree Conference, "The Changing Seasons of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry," is September 27-29th in Waco. Take notice that the conference is on a Tuesday – Thursday this year!!!

I want to say Good-bye and Good Luck to Misti Perez who has been "the go-to" person for every ISA Texas member for CEU and Certification support. Misti has provided so many services for members from outreach to new members, putting out surveys, setting up Arbor Chats and more. Her always positive and "can do" spirit will be missed. There have been interviews to fill the ISA Texas Member Services position.

Adios!

Mark C Bird

Editor's Note



Greetings, fellow Tree People!

Hello Summer! After what seems like a short Spring, we are once again thrown into the hotter weather--with soaring temperatures and constant lawn chores. But, as the days grow longer, we can look forward to lounging by the pool, hanging out on the beach, floating the river, watermelon, hot dogs, snow cones, and fireworks!

Check out highlights from the 2022 Women's Tree Climbing Workshop in Wimberley on page 16 and learn about Laurel Wilt on page 18. Also, take a peek 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 Summer!

Sincerely,

Heather McKnight



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- **Discounts:** Discounts on Texas Chapter seminars, workshops, and conferences
- **Online Learning:** Monthly/bi-monthly educational webinars created by the Chapter

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Summer 2022

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On the Cover

Vitex (*Vitex agnus-castus*) blooms popping in the Summer heat.

Events Update

Are you an ISA Texas chapter member? Are you receiving the email notices when registration opens? Members receive an email with the registration link a week before the general email list. Make sure your email is up to date with ISAT.

ISA Texas has offered or sponsored 15 different workshops this year. Eight of them were full within a week. We will be having a TRAQ course in Austin or San Antonio in early December. Remember to open your emails!

Next Steps:


- 1) Mark your calendars NOW for the Annual Conference in Waco!
- 2) Renew your ISA Texas membership (Registration links emailed directly to members first)!
- 3) Make sure your email is up to date with ISA Texas.

June 8	Texas Oak Wilt Qualification Fieldwork for Virtual – Fredericksburg –
June 9-10	Oak Wilt Qualification – Limited to 25 – Sold Out
June 27-29	TRAQ – Dallas – Limited to 20 – Sold Out
July TBD	Tree Pathology 101 with Dr. Appel
September 9-14	ISA Annual Conference
September 27-29	Texas Tree Conference - Waco
September 27-29	Texas Tree Conference - Waco

ISA Texas Board

The ISA Texas Board met in San Antonio to update the Strategic Plan.











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 9/29/2022 Waco, TX check in at 11:30 am
 11/18/2022 Ft. Worth, TX check in at 8:00 am

Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist Exam
 6/29/2022, Dallas, TX check in at 8:00 am

More info at ISATexas.com





New Members

Hector AlvarengaBaton Rouge LA
 Joel Lewis AndrewsAustin TX
 Daniel AriasCypress TX
 Harold ArnoldFrankston TX
 Brandon BlaineElgin TX
 Isaac CamachoWylie TX
 Jose Cortes JrSan Antonio TX
 Robert CrowSan Antonio TX
 Rodolfo DelbosqueRockwall TX
 Nathan FlorczykowskiGeorgetown TX
 Ananda FowlerGroveland FL
 Bradley GrahamMcKinney TX
 Micah IvieAmarillo TX
 Charles JohnsonSan Antonio TX
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 Patrick MinorGalveston TX
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Ground Operations 2: Chipper Specialist

Ground Operations 3: Chain Saw Specialist

Ground Operations 4: Tree Rigging and Removal



Pricing varies.

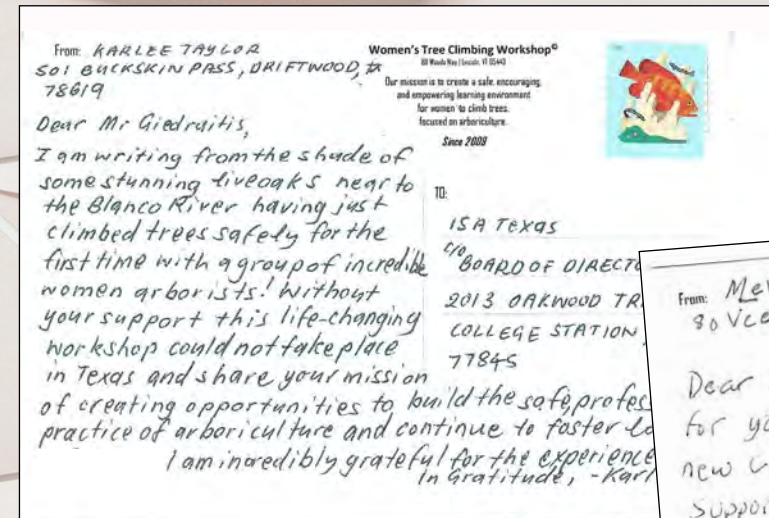


New online courses in English AND in Spanish will be added throughout the year!

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Mailbag



Laurel Wilt Word Scramble

Read the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Article on page 18 for clues.

Scrambled Words:

BOEAB EREMSAITL

ECRELAUAA

UEIAEO RCF LLRF ALAAA

RTU LCVRNAASOENATJNCIII

GENFDCUII

S AIG TRKAI LINTERNEN

ZLNOOCAOINIT

Member Spotlight

John Giedraitis

of College Station, Texas

Why did you join ISA?

My graduate advisor at Michigan State, Jim Kielbaso, asked me to be the photographer for the ISA Conference in Michigan in 1981, and I have been a member ever since. I joined the Texas Chapter in 1985 when I moved to Texas to be the Austin City Forester. Based on the great help ISA/ISAT has been to me, I recommend joining to anyone who cares for trees.

What is something you love most about the industry and feel is very valuable?

The ISA/ISA Texas Certifications and Qualifications help to make us all more professional, and the workshops, webinars and conference keep us up to date on the latest in tree care. But the thing I love most about our industry are the people. They love trees, as I do, and are willing to share their knowledge and time with their clients, citizens, and other arborists.

Anything that folks don't know about you?

When I got to Texas, Pat Wentworth took me to the ISA Texas annual meeting (it was a lot smaller back then), and at the meeting, elections for Board Directors were from nominations from the floor. Pat nominated me five times and every time, someone else won! Mostly it was because nobody knew who I was, but it was still pretty humbling. So, I started serving on committees and eventually was elected to the Board. In time, I became the President and for the past ten years have served as your Executive Director. All I can say is: get involved with your Texas Chapter ISA – you never know where it will lead!

Call me at 979-324-1929 or drop me a line at jpg@isatexas.com if you would like to get involved with you Chapter.



Texas Tree Critters



Barklice: *Archipsocus nomas* (web-forming) and *Cerastipsocus venosus* (not web-forming)

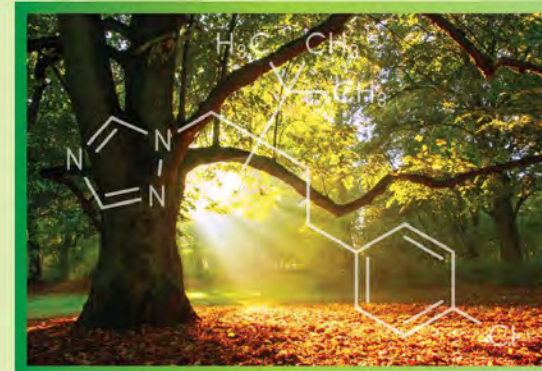
- Tiny, soft-bodied insects that are about 1/8 inch in length
- When disturbed, they move together as a large group
- *Archipsocus* form webs over tree trunks and limbs
- Beneficial: Function as “cleaning crew” for trees—work to decompose fungi, debris, dead bark, etc. on tree trunks.

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Condition: Oak Wilt Disease



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Safety Note



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--emergency procedures. It's Wednesday evening, and I'm wrapping up my day when I get a call no one wants to receive. I have a worker that is hurt, and an ambulance is on the way.

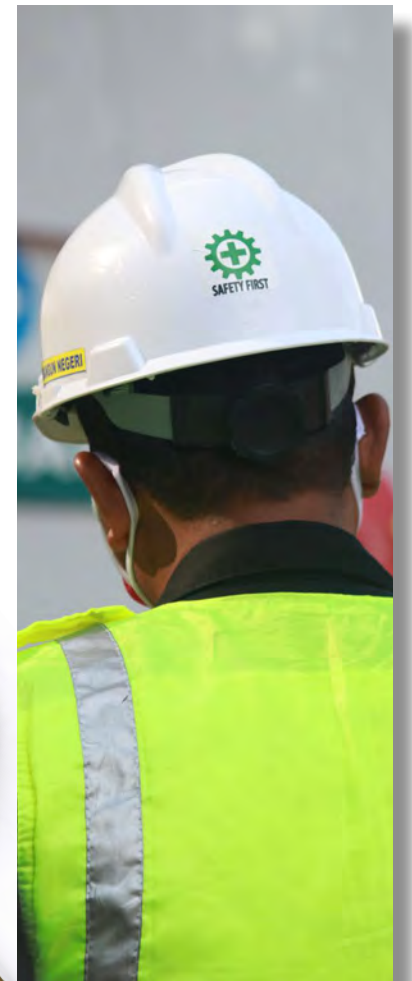
ANSI Z133 3.2.1 states, "All personnel engaged in arboricultural operations shall be instructed in the correct procedures for emergency response, including 911 calls and other applicable emergency phone numbers". We are fortunate in that our team practices emergency response regularly. That Wednesday, the training paid off.

The best way to prepare to respond to an emergency is before it happens. Most people can't think clearly or logically in a crisis, so practice is key. Keep it simple and keep it frequent. With repetition comes proficiency and then mastery of a skill or task. Do you have to think about how to tie your shoelaces?

Let's look at some simple questions you can ask yourself and your team in practice sessions:

- What number do we call? As silly of a question as this may seem, do not make an assumption.
- Who is calling and where is the phone located? Everyone needs to be trained on emergency response. Do you have enough battery? What do you do if you have poor signal?
- What does the 911 dispatcher need to know?
 - Nature of injury and where is the worker. This information helps the dispatcher route appropriate equipment and first responders to the site as quickly as possible.
 - Location. ALL workers need to know where the job site is. Address, specific area of the property/building they are working in. If you are in a rural setting, how will you link up with first responders?
 - Call back number- In case the call is disconnected/dropped.
 - Number of people affected and their condition- Again, getting the right equipment and people to the site to render aid.
- What are the intersecting streets if the injury occurs while driving? Z133 3.2.5 states, "Employees who may be faced with a rescue decision shall receive training in emergency response and rescue procedures appropriate and applicable to the work to be performed, as well as training to recognize the hazards inherent in rescue efforts."

For many jobs this information is communicated during a job briefing. Keep it simple, and practice frequently. Your coworker's life or even your life may depend on the practice.



“We’re Back!!” 2022 Women’s Tree Climbing Workshop

Sarah Campbell and Judith Menzl

2022 is the year of “We’re back!” For real this time. As a reward for patiently following Covid-19 safety guidelines for two years, Texas finally got to host the Women’s Tree Climbing Workshop™ again, an annual event interrupted twice by the pandemic.

In 2009, Bear LeVangie and Melissa Levangie-Ingersoll founded the Women’s Tree Climbing Workshop™ (WTCW) “to create a safe, encouraging, and empowering learning environment for women to climb trees, with an emphasis on arboriculture.” With this goal in mind, Bear and Melissa along with lead instructor Rebecca Seibel travel to several states every year to hold a 2.5 day retreat of learning “for women, taught by women.”

The workshop offers a rare opportunity to learn foundational climbing skills. In one weekend, attendees learn the basics of open and closed climbing systems, the difference between moving and stationary rope systems, and the gear and knot requirements for each. To many, particularly those unfamiliar with tree climbing, the curriculum felt overwhelming when they first arrived. Our readers may even share this sentiment. MRS and SRS in one weekend? Yes, it is uncommon to learn both methods simultaneously, but WTCW demonstrates that it is possible! By the end of the weekend, participants not only understand the mechanics of both systems, but also climb confidently on each.

The first workshop of this year took place at the Texas State University Camp in Wimberley for 22 participants,

who traveled from as far as California and Florida to attend. Though some attendees had climbed trees before, the majority had no prior experience at all. This varying level of expertise was no problem for Bear, Melissa and Rebecca, who miraculously were everywhere all at once, so that, by the last day, every participant felt they received one-on-one instruction sessions. As a result, climbers left the workshop with a strong foundation in tree-climbing and the confidence to apply their new skills.

How do the instructors achieve this level of competence? Their approach goes far beyond teaching the building blocks of climbing safety, proper vocabulary and knot-tying: they remind women they belong in the field of arboriculture. This message alone is exceptionally encouraging for those of us who have to fight twice as hard for the same opportunities. Several participants individually recounted a past experience of their first attempt at tree climbing, where the instruction was cut short when they could not master the skill on their first try. This unfortunately common experience among women proves the need for the Women’s Tree Climbing Workshop. Here, the instructing team gives women the time and space to learn at their own pace. They are knowledgeable, patient, and attentive to each climber and create a safe learning environment and supportive culture.

With their dedication and skill, Bear, Melissa and Rebecca are actively changing the field for women in arboriculture in front of our eyes. They empower women in the industry by building a supportive and knowledgeable community centered around generosity, compassion and mutual support. With every Women’s Tree Climbing Workshop, this community grows.



Photo by Cinthia Pedraza



Above: Instructor Melissa Levangie discussing foot ascender options with Cinthia Pedraza and Karlee Taylor.
Photo by Sarah Campbell



Above: Maria Lopez and Sam Heim.
Photo by Sarah Campbell



Above: Photo by Cinthia Pedraza

Opposite Page: 2022 Texas WTCW participants, volunteers, and trainers.

Right: Kelly West headed back to land.
Photo by Cinthia Pedraza



LAUREL WILT IN TEXAS: IMPACT, BIOLOGY, AND CONTROL

Dr. David Appel¹

I. INTRODUCTION AND CAUSE OF LAUREL WILT

The fungus causing the tree disease laurel wilt, *Raffaelea lauricola*, was originally discovered in the United States (U.S.) in 2004 in Georgia. The fungus subsequently spread across the Gulf Coast States to be found in Texas in 2013. The disease occurs in 14 East Texas counties. Laurel wilt is a significant disease of both forest and shade trees in residential neighborhoods and urban landscapes. Most recently, the disease has been found killing dozens of valuable shade trees in north Harris County, and many more will likely die due to the explosive nature of pathogen spread.

II. HOSTS AND AFFECTED TREES

In Texas, laurel wilt has been found killing redbay (*Persea borbonia*) and sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) trees. These two trees are in the family Lauraceae, as are many other tree species known to be susceptible to *R. lauricola*. For example, swamp bay (*P. palustris*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), and California laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) are additional trees found in Texas that may eventually be hosts to the pathogen. In Florida, commercial avocado (*P. americana*) trees are known to be affected as well.

Red bay, the primary tree affected by laurel wilt, serves as a prized shade tree in urban communities in East Texas. Seeds of the redbay serve as a source of mast for wildlife, and aromatic leaves were used for tea by early settlers and medicines by Native Americans.

III. BIOLOGY AND SPREAD OF THE PATHOGEN

One reason for the rapid spread of *R. lauricola* is the existence of an insect that carries the pathogen from diseased to healthy trees, sometimes over considerable distances. They are known as redbay ambrosia beetles

(*Xyleborus glabratus*) (Fig. 1) and were introduced simultaneously with the pathogen. Ambrosia beetles are uniquely suited to acquire the fungus from dead trees and transmit it to healthy ones. Female beetles carrying the fungus will bore tunnels into healthy trees and lay eggs. As the eggs hatch, the juveniles feed on *R. lauricola* growing in the original tunnels and emerge as adults to visit new trees and spread the pathogen. The fungus increasingly spreads through the sapwood of the diseased tree, disrupting the flow of water in the vascular system and resulting in typical symptoms. The process starts with the attack by very low numbers of beetles, but eventually, they will be attracted in huge numbers to overwhelm tree defenses and lead to its death.



Figure 1. Southeast Asian Ambrosia Beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*)
Image by Rachel Osborn, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

IV. SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF LAUREL WILT

The initial symptoms of an infected tree are yellowing and wilting of leaves in random branches (Fig. 2). The symptoms will spread to larger limbs so that increasingly more of the tree canopy will be affected, displaying splotchy patterns of yellow and brown leaves throughout the crown. Internally, the tree will also be symptomatic with distinct streaking in the sapwood that is revealed by removing the bark from the trunk or larger limbs (Fig. 3). The ambrosia beetles cause small holes on the bark surface (Fig. 4). The holes extend beneath the bark into the sapwood. Externally, the beetles cause tiny "sticks" comprised of compacted wood dust protruding from the bark. An abundance of the sawdust-like

V. MANAGEMENT

Proper diagnosis of laurel wilt is always the first step in planning an effective management program (see Section IV: Signs and symptoms of laurel wilt). The second step is to prevent the pathogen from spreading to new, healthy trees. All precautions should be taken to prevent the wood from diseased trees being transported into areas where the pathogen is not known to occur. If the pathogen is introduced into an area, then diseased and dead trees should be promptly identified and removed to eliminate breeding and reduce the beetle populations. The wood should be destroyed, buried, or otherwise treated appropriately to eliminate the threat of spreading contaminated beetles. Wounds, including pruning cuts, on uninfected trees should be treated with a pruning paint because they attract beetles. Weakened or stressed trees also attract beetles, so susceptible hosts should be kept healthy and free of stresses that might compromise the health of the tree.

Another form of protection may be afforded by intravascular injection of trees with a fungicide. Propiconazole, sold as products with the trade names Alamo® and Propizol®, have been shown to have some temporary benefit in protecting trees when properly applied. There are a variety of injection methods, types of equipment, and properly trained commercial arborists in Texas that should be consulted for such specialized procedures. However, further research is needed to improve the likelihood of saving trees with intravascular injection, so expectations for complete control with injection at the time of this publication are not warranted.

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Figure 3. Internal streaking of the sapwood of a diseased redbay caused by colonization by *R. lauricola*.



Figure 4. Holes (blue arrows) created by ambrosia beetles when they bore into trees and the dust (green arrows) and tubes (yellow arrows) of compacted wood dust resulting from mass attack.

¹ Professor and Extension Specialist, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, College Station, TX 77843



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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: The common name is derived from the hardness of its wood and the hop-like fruit.

LAST MONTH'S TREE ID



Spring 2022 winner was Keith Martin. The tree was Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*).

This issue's Big Idea submitted by Keith Martin.