

In the Shade

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



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International Society
of Arboriculture

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The summer night
is like a perfection
of thought."

— Wallace Stevens

Oh my, and we thought it was hot and dry in May! Now that we are in the actual months of summer, the reality of a long, hot and dry Texas summer has sunk in...

It was amazing to be at the final day of the 2022 Texas Tree Climbing Championship held at Cypress Bend Park in New Braunfels May 20-21. A Big Congratulations to our 2022 Texas Climbing Champions and to all the "Tree-Athletes" who competed at the Texas Tree Climbing Championship. The 2022 Women's Texas Champion is Star Quintero and the 2022 Men's Texas Champion is Miguel Pastenes. An amazing event like the Texas Tree Climbing Championship does not happen without the dedicated work of committee and volunteers. I wish I could list each person who volunteered time and gave so much to ensure the success of the 2022 Texas Tree Climbing Championship event. So that you don't miss the 2023 TTCC, you can put the dates of May 26th & 27th on your calendar. A location for the TTCC will be announced in the next few months.

In July, the ISA Texas Board of Directors met in Waco. It was a good day of work for the Board, which reviewed the work of committees, the calendar of past events and training dates and the upcoming 2022 Texas Tree Conference. There was also work by the Board on planning for future training and Masters Level events. Wow--there have been a lot of great training and educational opportunities this year! The Board also reviewed a draft of the 2023-2025 ISA Texas Strategic Plan,

which will be presented at the Annual ISA Texas Meeting during the Tree Conference.

Speaking of volunteers, our ISA Texas Chapter is a member-driven organization which relies on members and volunteers to come up with ideas and serve on a variety of committees that develop and produce the diverse training opportunities, Master Series workshops, newsletters, and events such as the Texas Tree Climbing Championship. I encourage everyone to share your thoughts and ideas for training and events that will grow the professional and educational needs of our members. I also invite everyone to consider volunteering for a committee, at an event, and running for a position on the ISA Texas Board of Directors. To make it easy to volunteer, the ISA Texas website has a volunteer link! To make it even easier, when you see me at the Tree Conference, let me know what ideas you have and what committee or ISA Texas Board position you would like me to nominate you for!

When you make plans to attend the 2022 Texas Tree Conference, remember the first day of the conference is Tuesday September 27th There will be Tree Academies, the Tree Conference and Expo, and Tree Schools. Be on the lookout for registration and the full agenda of topics and speakers.

Everyone keep doing your "rain dances." We need the rain!

See y'all in Waco!

Mark C Bird

Editor's Note



Greetings, fellow Tree People! As the Summer winds down, we can look forward to the cooler season ahead (fingers crossed). This season has been brutally dry and hot, but I'm excited about the possibility of a nice, cool Fall and Winter...and RAIN. And, the Tree Conference in Waco, of course!

In this issue, you'll find additional details and registration information for the "The 42nd Annual Texas Tree Conference—"The Changing Seasons of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry" on page 12. (This year, you'll see a QR code that will take you directly to the registration page.)

Also, check out the recap and highlights from the "Texas Tree Climbing Championships" in New Braunfels on page 16. 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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- **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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Vol. 46, No. 2

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On the Cover

White Crape Myrtle and a stormy Summer sky.



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EXPO.TCIA.ORG | 800-733-2622 | REGISTRATION OPENS 7/13/22

2022 Events Update

ISA Texas has a busy event schedule this year. The next major event is the Annual Conference in Waco. We have a full lineup of speakers again. The schedule is different this year. The “Academy” will be held on Tuesday and will focus on utilizing the wood generated from Arboricultural activities. The conference is on Wednesday and Thursday. We are offering a new Spanish speaking track on Wednesday.

We are working on a “Plant Pathology 101” webinar series, similar to the entomology series we had last year. Participants will be able to earn all five needed TDA CEU’s; we are looking at the second week in December. The next TRAQ course is scheduled for December 5-7 in San Antonio.


- Next Steps:
- 1) Register for the Annual Conference in Waco!
 - 2) Renew your ISA Texas membership (registration links emailed directly to members first)!
 - 3) Look for the registration link emails from ISA Texas

August 10-12	TNLA (Texas Nursery and Landscape Association Expo)	San Antonio--booth
August 5-7	NATTC	Minneapolis
September 9-14	ISA Annual Conference	Malmo
September 27-29	ISA Texas Tree Conference, Trade Show, Academy, and Tree School	Waco
September 27	TRAQ Renewal with Skip Kincaid	Waco
September 29	Certified Arborist Exam	Waco
September 29	ISA Texas Board Meeting	Waco
November	Tree Pathology 101 with Dr. Appel	Webinar Series (5 sections)
November 1-3	ISA Leadership Workshop	Atlanta
November 4	Texas State Arbor Day Booth	TBD
November 15-17	Certified Arborist Prep Class	AgriLife, Fort Worth
November 18	Certified Arborist Exam	Ft. Worth
December 5-7	TRAQ	San Antonio Botanical Garden

Texas Tree Critters

- Red Imported Fire Ant: *Solenopsis invicta* Buren**
- Worker ants are dark brown and about 1/16 to 3/16 inch in length
 - May live indoors/inside structures or build mounds in open areas
 - Usually use trees as nesting areas
 - Pest Status: Rarely damage mature trees but can damage young tree roots, field crops and venom is hazardous to wildlife, pets, and humans







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Certification Exams

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

More info at ISATexas.com





New Members

Robert Adcock.....San Antonio, NC
 Soren Andrews.....Denton, TX
 Giovanni BalderasCedar Creek, TX
 Francisco Bello.....Jarrell, TX
 Pam BrettHutto, TX
 Myles Cooley.....Austin, TX
 Whitney Garner.....McKinney, TX
 Jorge GuzmanDuncanville, TX
 Richard Hammond.....Austin, TX
 John F HutchinsonRound Rock, TX
 Jeffrey KettlerRichmond, TX
 Jonathan Lawrence.....Kaufman, TX
 Andrew LoydCharlotte, NC
 Alex MarekRosenberg X
 Kevin Martin.....Leander, TX
 Robert J McCann.....Garland, TX
 Buster Nowell.....Garland, TX
 Kenneth Patterson.....Victoria, TX
 Justinian Ramos.....Austin, TX
 David RayLarned, KS
 Gloria RecioGeorgetown, TX
 Michael Rose.....Calvin, OK
 Anthony Sanchez.....Boerne, TX
 Peter TorreFrisco, TX
 Haley Ruth Vincze.....Whyllie, TX
 Megan Wood.....Waco, TX

Mobile Crane Operator License Class

Nationally Accredited, OSHA Recognized, Mobile Crane Operator License class in Corsicana, TX (just south of Dallas) on Sept. 7-9, 2022.

The benefits to the ISA/TCIA members are:

- This course has been fully examined by the ISA and will earn attendees 16 ISA CEUs. This course has been fully examined by the TCIA and will earn attendees 21 CTSP CEUs.
- The regular pricing of this course is \$2,175.00. Any ISA or TCIA attendee will receive a 10% discount, the final price is only \$1,949.00!
- All attendees will have access to the Cranes 101 portal where they can perform Crane, Bucket Truck and Heavy Equipment, OSHA-mandated daily pre-use inspections with the use of a tablet or cell phone. There are programs in the marketplace that sell this service for \$1,000's per year. As a Cranes 101 ISA customer, it is free of charge!
- The one written exam allows an operator to test on any of four different classes of cranes.

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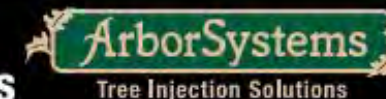


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Bexar Branches Alliance

By Jaci Randel

Bexar Branches Alliance (BBA) is a newly established urban forestry nonprofit (501c3) dedicated to expanding and preserving the tree canopy of the Greater San Antonio Region. BBA's mission is carried out through initiatives including planting native trees, providing tree maintenance assistance to at-risk communities, and delivering educational resources, research, and hands-on experiences that expand native tree literacy.

BBA follows a data-focused approach to understand the social and environmental effects of tree coverage gaps and identify areas that are in greatest need. BBA utilizes data from My City's Trees, American Forests' Tree Equity Map, the US Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas (FARA), [AirNow.gov](https://airnow.gov), and other sources to analyze how trees influence climate, air and water quality, stormwater planning, mental health, and social equity and vulnerability.

BBA, in partnership with Northside ISD and 4th and 5th graders under the direction of environmental science teacher Isaac Esquivel, will plant a total of 500 trees on five campuses starting in the Fall of 2022. The five schools included in the program's first year are Jim G.

Martin, Dr. Martha Mead, Rita Kay Driggers, Gregorio Esparza, and Frances M. Rhodes. The program will expand Mr. Esquivel's environmental science curriculum by giving his students hands-on experience. Trees will be strategically planted to keep playscapes, outdoor classrooms, and gathering areas cool for students to use. The program is also an opportunity for students to learn about careers in forestry, tree care and maintenance, and how trees planted now will support their schools and broader communities for years to come! Overall, the five campuses participating in the program will add 500 trees to their communities, and each school will participate in the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus K-12 Program.

BBA is currently developing a tree and palm maintenance and removal program that will triage and replant trees for qualified low-income homeowners. The program applies to at-risk trees and palms in need of routine pruning to remove weak, dead, or diseased limbs/fronds, or trees that are dead, fatally diseased, or structurally weak, as well as trees that have a structural defect making them likely to fail in whole or in part.

BBA is excited to calibrate and work with our local communities, governments, and businesses to reach common sustainability goals through the power of trees! If you have any questions or interest in our mission or initiatives, please contact Jaci Randel, Executive Director at bexarbranches@gmail.com or visit our website bexarbranches.org.



2022 Texas Tree Conference Silent Auction Request

Dear ISA Texas Member,

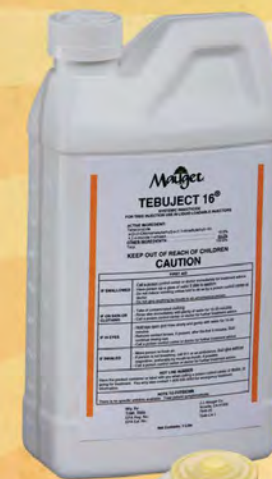
Every year we hold a silent auction during the Texas Tree Conference & Trade Show in which all of the proceeds go towards scholarships for arboriculture & urban forestry college students. These donations can be a business's products or services, a home improvement store gift card, passes or vouchers 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. If you would like to donate to the silent auction, please let me know in advance by email (ginny.sills@gmail.com) or phone (972-268-4653).



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The 2022 Texas Tree Conference

The 2022 Texas Tree Conference is coming to Waco September 27-29. This year's theme is "The Changing Seasons of Arboriculture & Urban Forestry," recognizing untapped sources for growth and development.

Arboriculture and urban forestry are changing, does your organization have the skills necessary to survive the change? This conference is about thinking outside the bark – when hiring, when training, when earning revenue, and when managing – whether it's people, urban forests, or vegetation. It's about celebrating the many benefits of diversity within the field – from our people to our trees to our revenue streams.

Join us for our academy and learn how you can turn waste into potential revenue while helping your community be recognized as a "Sustainable Urban Forest," and then stay for the conference to learn how your peers are adapting to the changing world. This year we're celebrating change and one of the changes will be that we're meeting Tuesday through Thursday instead of Wednesday through Friday due to a Baylor home game. We're expanding the trade show this year by opening the doors to the parking lot so vendors can show off their latest large equipment. Finally, we've included a Spanish language track to better serve all our members.

Don't worry, it's not all change - the social at the Backyard, the exhibitor's reception, and the awards dinner are all unchanged, just shifted forward a day. We'll also

have the tree schools (English and Spanish), a Certified Arborist exam and a TRAQ renewal. You'll be able to network with other Texas arborists during the breaks and after hours at Crickets, and if you want, stay in Waco for a football game.

Register today, you won't want to miss this event. It's the best tree show in Texas.



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Member Spotlight

Rebecca Johnson – Austin, TX

Why did you decide to join the Texas Chapter ISA?

When I first certified, I only joined ISA and ISA Texas on renewal years (for the discount in renewal fees). But when I started attending the conferences, I renewed my membership annually, first for the discount on the conference and then because the newsletter was valuable. I then joined the Education Committee so that I could be sure that my educational needs were met. From that committee, I ended up joining the Board. I always tell people that if you think the Chapter isn't doing anything for you, get involved. There are a lot of committees you could join.

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

Trees really are one of the most important parts of our urban environment. Trees lower the temperature and clean the air. We have good, solid proof that human health suffers when there aren't trees around. Without trees, mental health suffers. Helping people preserve trees makes me feel like I'm doing my part to save the world.

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

I love to collect trivia information, especially about the natural world. Also, whenever we travel, we will visit a local arboretum to get a chance to learn more trees.

What's the best reason you could give to someone that is thinking of joining ISAT?

Spending time with other arborists in the state helps you learn about emerging pests and diseases early, plus have a chance to hear what other arborists are trying for control. Life is too short to learn everything by personal experience, having a larger network means that you have access to their personal experiences too.



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Texas Tree Climbing Championships 2022 – New Braunfels

By Kirsten Schneider

For better or for worse, no one walks away from a tree climbing competition without stories to tell. This year's Texas Tree Climbing Championships (TxTCC) in New Braunfels was no exception. After holding a TxTCC alongside last fall's conference after a two-and-a-half-year hiatus, holding another event this spring created a compressed time frame in which to plan, and the additional challenge of volunteer fatigue from the fall event. A big "Thank You" goes to our chapter's volunteer force, especially the many brave new individuals who took the polar bear plunge into first-time TxTCC volunteerism. One particularly animated cohort of volunteers made this metaphor literal by jumping into the bracing water of the Guadalupe River, which runs alongside Cypress Bend Park, and providing a classic Central Texas creek life soundtrack for those still working that day. But that's another story.

Wednesday's site prep took an unexpected turn when pruning activities in the central event space stirred up a bee colony, earning the closest volunteer multiple welts, sending others running to the periphery, and threatening to halt not only prep activities, but the event itself. With the assistance of Markus Smith and his Tree-Mek, and with some quick flips through the Rolodex...I mean...Googling, by volunteers, the branch with its angry occupants was brought down safely, and the colony was relocated with the swift help of Cord Brown of Brown's Bee Farm. In return for his services, Mr. Brown, who through some trick of the stars happens to be interested in tree work, was granted a ticket to Thursday's workshop.

The workshop was led by Chris Brunner and Erick Palacios of Academy Trained and focused on climbing techniques and aerial rescue. It was one of an increasing number of workshops and trainings that ISA Texas is working to make available in bilingual formats that can serve English speakers as well

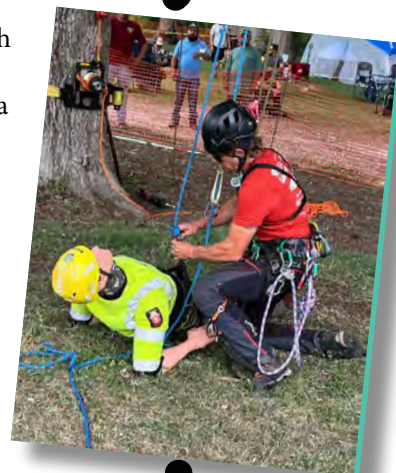
as the enormous and essential percentage of Spanish-speaking workers in our industry.

Friday started inauspiciously, with an essential area of our planned parking, immediately adjacent to scorekeeping HQ, coned off for restriping by City staff around 6 am, making the unloading of supplies (and lunches) significantly more difficult throughout the day. This, and the revocation of grass parking permissions caused a ripple effect of parking complications that were felt well into the afternoon. But the schedule of preliminary events cannot wait for parking issues to be resolved, so contestants and volunteers found their

spots (and moved their cars as necessary) and were on their marks at their designated times. A mandatory lightning delay was called mid-afternoon but was a minor blip on the radar of long-time volunteers who have experienced whole-day weather delays resulting in impromptu cookouts and dollar collections for the grocery store and posting up in a late afternoon with locals and their families and a backyard grill with an uncertain schedule for the 24 hours ahead.

Miguel Pastenes won the top score in the work climb, with a total score of 66.67. Colorado arborist Luke Glines was not far behind, and Carlos Garcia was also less than one point behind Miguel with 65.91 points. Miguel left the pack behind in the belayed speed climb with a lead of almost 5 seconds.

Top Photo: Miguel Pastenes receives a trophy
Middle Photo: Star Quintero receives a trophy
Bottom Photo: Performing the aerial rescue



Star Quintero led the women's division with a score of 61 in the work climb, followed by Savannah Williams and Candace Matthews. Star also took the lead in throwline, aerial rescue, and the belayed speed climb, though Candace almost bested her in the latter with a time difference of less than three seconds, and Savannah beat the field in ascent. In the men's division, Jimmy Pritchard won by one point against Andrew Machuca in aerial rescue and one second in ascent, against Michael Castle. Nicanor Buitron made a legendary throwline showing and won with 29 points.

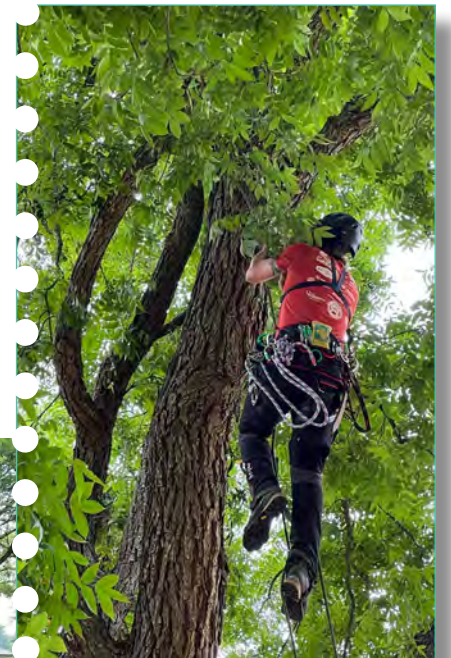
Star Quintero won the Master's climb in the women's division, and ranked third when scored in the larger field of both male and female in-state competitors. Jimmy Pritchard took second in the men's Master's Challenge, with Candace Matthews taking second in the women's division. Miguel Pastenes brought home the trophy for the 12th (?) time (we've stopped counting) in our chapter's history. We want to thank our sponsors who made generous donations of prize packages for our winners. Those include Arbormaster, Samson, Vermeer, Oregon, Silky, Buckingham, Greenworks Commercial and All Access Equipment. Generous financial support and additional prizes were provided by TreeStuff, Wesspur, Arbession, Arborillogical, Brabandt Equipment, Sav-a-tree, JL Matthews, and All About Equipment.

This year, we held formal debrief meetings for the preliminary event teams for the first time in recent memory. The feedback collected from volunteers has indicated several issues this organization, and the organizers of this event (including myself), need to explore and remediate. The first, and easiest, is gear. Some investment will need to be made by the chapter to update our gear cache before next spring's competition. Second, there is uncertainty about the interpretation of a few competition rules, and a desire for training of new volunteers in both the setup of events and application of ITCC rules. Our chapter has reached out to ISA International for assistance, and it appears we are not alone in our questions or our desires for volunteer training. ISA is working on the production of training videos, and our questions regarding rules will shortly be forwarded to ITCC.

The third, and most difficult area of feedback we received related to the culture of the event and how well (or poorly) it reflects the inclusivity and professionalism our chapter promotes. Both men and women provided instances of commentary and banter that were unprofessional in nature and created an inhospitable environment for many volunteers and participants.

ISA Texas is writing a chapter-specific code of conduct for this event to better reflect Texas chapter expectations for respectful and professional conduct and will seek input from the membership, participants and volunteers. Judges are also empowered to use discretionary penalties to address these behaviors among contestants. As individuals, those of us involved with our chapter's competition ask for your grace and patience as we work toward solutions to what are undeniably industry-wide challenges, but challenges we simply can't conquer unless we start from within.

When I started volunteering with this event, our latest Presidential Award of Merit winner, Kirbie Houser, was a teenager, and I was very pregnant. Now my daughter is the teenager, and Kirbie and Miguel are new parents. I look forward to their kiddo joining the cadre of climbing comp kids that make a solid mess of a picnic blanket, invent games to pass the day, help tote lunches to volunteers, and long for the moment they're old enough to get their hands on one of those radios. Stories are half the power of the TxTCC experience, whether you're a contestant or a volunteer. I have a thousand of them, our kids are creating them, and I know that our volunteers, whether they've just helped for their first time, or were the founding fathers of this event - like Kevin Basset and Steve Houser and Guy Leblanc - have theirs too. Stories are what create community, and our community is growing.



Top Photo:
Ascending to the canopy

Left Photo:
Getting geared up

Fire Blight of Ornamental Pears

Sheila McBride, Extension Program Specialist
David Appel, Professor, Plant Pathology and Microbiology*

Fireblight causes vascular wilt in many varieties of pome trees (apples, pears, and ornamental pears) and members of the Rosaceae family (a wide range of trees, shrubs, herbs, and ornamental plants such as roses, strawberries, figs, and mulberries). With vascular wilt diseases, pathogens block the water-carrying (vascular) system of the plant, causing the leaves, stems, and branches to wither, weaken, and die.

One of the most destructive diseases of commercial apples and pears, fire blight is also a serious disease of the popular ornamental Bradford pears used in many Texas landscapes (Fig. 1). Other common Texas woody ornamentals affected by fire blight are loquat, cotoneaster, and pyracantha.

Symptoms

- Infected flowers become water-soaked (translucent and wilted), shrivel, and turn brown.
- Leaves progressively turn brown, develop black blotches, curl, and eventually shrivel.
- Twigs wilt from the tip downward, turning black and curling in a “shepherd’s crook,” giving them a burnt appearance (Fig. 2).
- Branches develop dark, sunken cankers that enlarge and girdle the branches. Eventually, the branch dies (Fig. 3).

Cause and Environmental Factors

The bacterium, *Erwinia amylovora*, causes fire blight. The pathogen

- over-winters in cankers, budscars, and branches;
- forms an ooze that attracts insects, including bees, that then spread the bacteria via the nectarthodes (openings at the base of flowers);

- also spreads by rain, which splashes onto the bacterial ooze and causes new infections; and
- infects new, tender, succulent twigs and leaves.

Control

- During winter dormancy, use sanitation pruning to remove infected wood:
 - Cut an infected branch 4 to 6 inches below the visible injury or canker.



Figure 1. Typical signs of fire blight on a Bradford pear tree. Source: Sheila McBride



Figure 2. Shepherd's crook symptom of fire blight in young twigs. Source: Sheila McBride



Figure 3. Burnt appearance of Bradford pear twigs. Source: Sheila McBride

- To avoid spreading bacteria during pruning, sanitize the pruning tool before each cut, using a 10-percent bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts water).
- To prevent rust, dry and oil tools after using them.
- Reduce excessive succulence by avoiding extreme fertilization and watering.
- Plant moderately resistant varieties.
- Reduce new infections by spraying an antibiotic such as streptomycin sulfate (Ferti-lome® Fire Blight Spray) on flowers or shoots before the bacteria infect them. A copper sulfate fungicide (Bonide® Copper Fungicide) is also an option when applied several times while the blossoms are open. (Neither option will eliminate all new infections or those already existing in the wood.)

Refer to product labels for proper rates and use.

Extension Plant Pathology
<http://plantclinic.tamu.edu>

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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: This extremely rare tree is the host plant for the Giant Swallowtail butterfly and one of the few species in the citrus family, Rutaceae, and endemic to the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

LAST MONTH'S TREE ID



Summer 2022 winner was Jessie Farris. The tree was Hophornbean (*Ostrya virginiana*).

This issue's Big Idea submitted by Jessie Farris.