

In the Shade

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



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From the President

Hello again, ISA Texas members. It's been a minute since I was writing a regular note to y'all. It's been a crazy few years, but we're hoping to put COVID in our rear view mirror and hoping that no new pandemic pops up.

I hope you all enjoyed the 2022 Texas Tree Conference. Part of my focus is diversifying our events—from speakers to topics—and the conference was a reflection of that goal. It's important to me that everyone sees someone who looks like them as a speaker.

We also released our updated strategic plan for member review. You can review the document at <https://isatexas.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ISAT-2023-2025-Strategic-Plan-Approved-by-Board.pdf>. When the strategic planning committee met in May 2022, we examined our past plan and determined that we'd actually met most of our goals and had room to start examining new goals.

We started by determining our core organizational values, professionalism, integrity, leadership and collaboration.

PROFESSIONALISM—ISA Texas values and promotes professionalism through inclusiveness and innovation within the organization. We demonstrate this value by providing opportunities through educational programs, events, and other resources. We help educate the public to value and hire Certified Arborists to professionally care for their trees.

INTEGRITY—ISA Texas is committed to the highest ethical and professional standards. We serve our members with transparency and trustworthiness,

empowering them to provide exemplary professional arboricultural and urban forestry services.

LEADERSHIP—Through integrity, innovation, and passion, ISA Texas is the statewide leader in providing tree care professionals with educational opportunities and credentialing. We provide leadership to enhance our neighborhoods, communities, and the state by raising awareness of the proper care, value, and benefits of trees.

COLLABORATION—By being transparent, open, and inclusive, ISA Texas excels through collaboration with diverse groups and communities.

We also developed our strategic initiatives—the first of which is Increasing diversity and inclusiveness. ISA Texas is committed to having a diverse and inclusive society that meets the needs of its members and supports the advancement of tree care in the state. As part of this strategic plan, we are including a strategic initiative to increase diversity and inclusiveness across all of our programs. As part of this effort, we will take a deep dive into the following aspects of our work:

- **Membership:** Who are our members? What kind of events/classes/career development are we offering? How can we broaden our approach?
- **Focus:** We intend to identify and reach out to under-represented groups within our membership and our potential members. Initially, these might include developing outreach initiatives to industry and allied groups (climbers, tree-workers, planners, architects for example), and gender, ethnic

(continued next page)

“

Every leaf speaks
bliss to me,
fluttering from the
Autumn tree.”

— Emily Bronte

identity and age groups.

- Actionable items: We anticipate developing more offerings for climbers/tree workers and career development. This might include:
 - o Creating a framework for Certified Tree-Worker Training
 - o Developing an outreach plan to create a high school – University pipeline for career pathways training. This may include creating and sending information packets to school districts for high school guidance counselors.

I'm looking forward to leading the organization through this first year of our new strategic plan. I hope you will join me by serving on a committee or otherwise being involved.

See you in the trees,

Rebecca



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In the Shade

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Fall 2022

Vol. 46, No. 3

Editor's Note



Greetings, fellow Tree People! The transition from late Summer to early Fall is always welcome! And the trees always show us—if we take the time to notice. A few reddish leaves on the tips of Red Maple limbs, a red Chinese Tallow or Crape Myrtle leaf here and there, cooler winds in the evenings, and here on the Gulf Coast...the humidity is finally below 90-something percent (which means that you can actually dry off post-shower without sweating during the process). Yay!!

In this issue, we've included a recap of the North American Tree Climbing Competition on page 12 and "The Trouble with Cedar Elm" on page 16.

Also, check out the meeting summary from the Oak Wilt Suppression Program and Advisory Committee on page 18. 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

Houston Urban Tree Conference

Nov 11th, 9:00-3:00, at HCC Katy Campus

Learn about the latest advances in plant growth regulators, transplanting and follow-up care of large trees, scale management, and regional updates on laurel wilt, Phytophthora, and tree drought stress. ISA & TNLA CEUs available. Cost is \$40, lunch included.

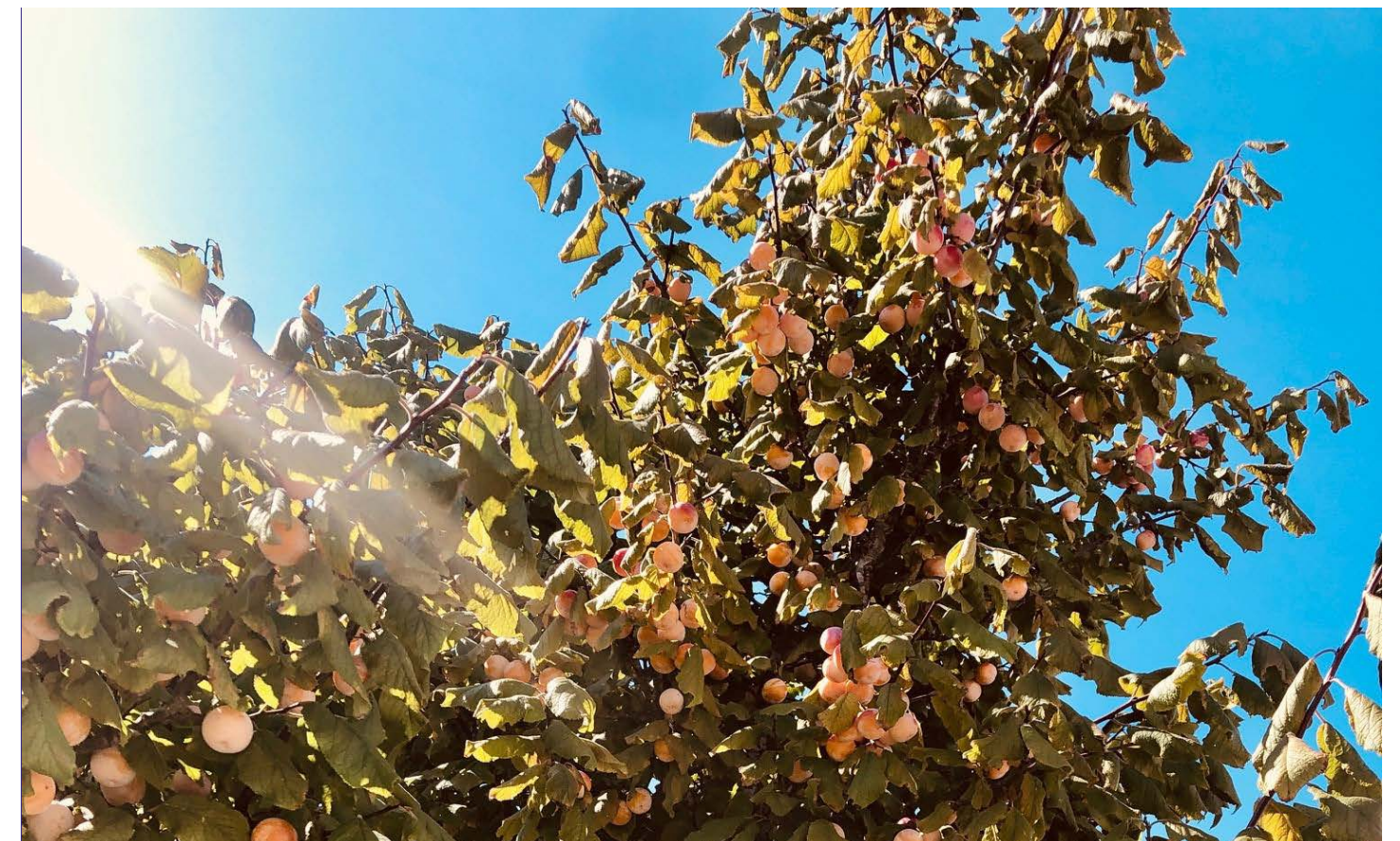
Register at: <https://hutc2022.eventbrite.com> Brought to you by TAMU AgriLife Extension, Houston Area Urban Forest Council, and HCC.



Are you a Chapter member? If not, go to 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



On the Cover

Prunus mexicana (Mexican Plum) adorned with ripening fruit.

2022 Events Update

ISA Texas usually doesn't schedule many events between the conference and the end of the year, but this year we have. We are scheduling on a "Plant Pathology 101" webinar series similar to the entomology series we had last year on consecutive weeks in November. Participants will be able to earn all five needed TDA CEUs. It will be 5 one-hour webinars from noon – 1:00 pm each day. Dr. Appel will be the primary presenter.

A full TRAQ course has been scheduled for December 5-7 in San Antonio. We have also partnered again with the Southern chapter to bring you more online renewal options. There will be four offered; the first of which is November 2nd.

Next Steps:

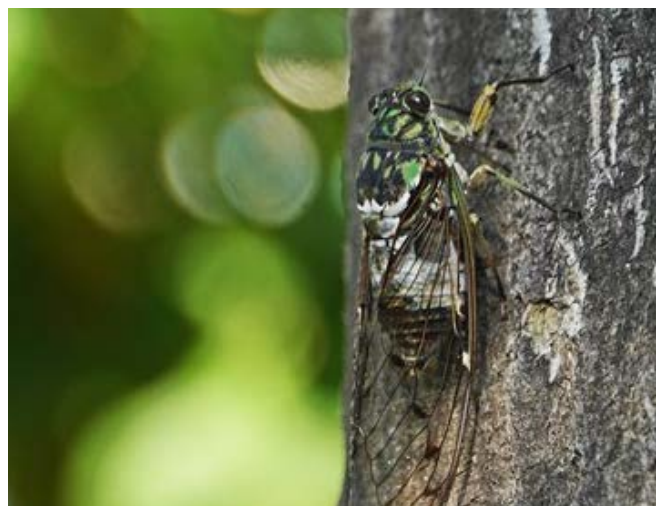
- 1) Renew your ISA Texas membership (registration links emailed directly to members first)!
- 2) Look for the registration link emails from ISA Texas
- 3) Periodically check the Events Calendar on the [ISATexas.com](https://www.isatexas.com) website

Nov. 1-3	ISA Leadership Workshop	Atlanta
Nov. 2	TRAQ Renewal - Virtual	Online
Nov. 4	Texas State Arbor Day Booth	TBD
Nov. 10	TCI Expo	Charlotte, NC
Nov. 11	Houston Urban Forestry Conference	Katy, TX
Nov. 8, 10, 15, 16, 17	Tree Pathology 101 with Dr. Appel	Webinar Series (5 TDA CEUs)
Nov. 15-17	Certified Arborist Prep Class	AgriLife, Fort Worth
Nov. 18	CA Exam	Ft. Worth
Dec. 5-7	TRAQ	San Antonio Botanical Garden
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

Cicada: *Tibicen spp.*

- Green and/or brown in color and grow to 1 1/2 inches in length, depending on species
- Adults have bulging eyes and clear-ish wings and appear in mid to late Summer
- Females lay eggs on branches
- Males known for their "song"—which attracts females (only males sing)
- Pest Status: Rarely damage mature trees but nymphs feed on tree root sap and adults feed on twig juice.



- ➡ Trade Show with 250+ Exhibitors on TWO Show Floors
- ➡ 10 Live Tree Demos | 7 Trainer's Labs | Skills Arena
- ➡ 6 Full and Half-Day Pre-Conference Workshops on Wed.
- ➡ TCI EXPOClimb | ISA Climbing Event | Student Career Day
- ➡ 39 Sessions Thurs. - Sat. (with the All-Access Pass)
- ➡ Happy Hour | Welcome Reception | TCI Block Party
- ➡ Digital Access to Earn Even More CEUs! (with the All-Access Pass)



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11/18/2022 Ft. Worth, TX check in at 8 a.m.



More info at ISATexas.com



Texas Chapter
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New Members

Kyle Ables Southlake TX
Mike Adams Temple TX
Howard Anderson Nacogdoches TX
Misael Angeles Mesquite TX
Jed Aplaca Pasadena TX
William Arthur Burleson TX
Jamie Bell Houston TX
Quintarius Bell Denton TX
Victor Bishop El Paso TX
Scott Blair Wake Forest NC
David Bock Austin TX
Tyler Box Norman OK
Chris Brandon Aubrey TX
Domingo Brito El Paso TX
Matthew Burgess Austin TX
Alejandro Bustamonte Richland Hills TX
Glenn Caldwell Terrell TX
John Cardona Austin TX
Jose Castillo Missouri City TX
Chad Cook Argyle TX
Antonio Cornejo Argyle TX
Amber Creppon New Waverly TX
Dustin Dady Davison MI
Jeremy Davis Noble OK
Harry Dawson San Antonio TX
Marshawn Denny Austin TX
Osvaldo DeSantiago Lake Dallas TX
Doug Deskin Bastrop TX
Benjamin Dews Austin TX
Cahir Doherty Austin TX
Salvador Dominguez Houston TX
Paul Douglass Garland TX
Brian Eagan Georgetown TX
Will Elkins Murphy TX
Jason Ervin Forney TX
Xavier Escamilla Cedar Hill TX
Nate Farr Joshua TX
Tristan Farr Joshua TX
Samuel Ferreria Austin TX
Colleen Fitzpatrick Denton TX
Daniel Flores Combes TX
Calixto Flores Laredo TX
Carlos Fuentes Irving TX
Jesus Fuentes Rodriguez Cedar Park TX
Samuel Garcia Austin TX
Sebastian Garcia Austin TX
Oscar Garcia Austin TX
Ethan Geer Lewisville TX

Racheal George San Marcos TX
Glen Gillman Austin TX
Karla Gorostieta Houston TX
Jake Gosschalk Austin TX
William Graham Helotes TX
James Grant Belton TX
Matt Grubisich Garland TX
Scott Hartis Burleson TX
Aubrey Harty Argyle TX
Ben Heistein Waxahachie TX
Jonas Hernandez Richland Hills TX
Quillan Hill Austin TX
Michael Hodson Katy TX
Michael Holinsky San Antonio TX
Minyue Hu Houston TX
Kieran Hunt Willow Grove PA
John Imperial Corinth TX
Taylor Jackson Gatesville TX
Deborah January-Bevers Houston TX
Brook Johnston Austin TX
Leron Jones Austin TX
Jeff Justice Justin TX
Caden Kerr Denton TX
Henry King Hendersonville NC
Justin Knoche Schertz TX
Stephanie Krull Georgetown TX
Nicole Lang Houston TX
Paul Lawrence Austin TX
Ramsey Ledesma Bastrop TX
Daniel Liu Brenham TX
Jacob Long Temple TX
Miguel Lopez San Antonio TX
Christopher Martin Oklahoma City OK
Jason Martinez Austin TX
Raymond Martinez Midland TX
David Masias Austin TX
Frank Masias Austin TX
Mike McClure McAllen TX
EJ McCoy Frisco TX
William McCrady Lufkin TX
Amber McKeehan Nacogdoches TX
H McMullen Nacogdoches TX
Erik Miller Denton TX
Jake Moore Waco TX
Oscar Morales Argyle TX
Frank Moreno Richland Hills TX
Socorro Muniz Denton TX
Colleen Murray Dallas TX
Tara Nathanson Saginaw TX
Michael Navarrette Austin TX
Victor Navarro Laredo TX

Mark Nosal Mount Pleasant TX
Mason O'Brient Austin TX
Blayne Parish Burnet TX
Gustavo Pernalet Georgetown TX
Joseph Piekarski Dallas TX
Melissa Pittman-Hoff Flower Mound TX
Van Pollard Argyle TX
Fred Porter Temple TX
Connor Price Irving TX
Vincent Price Austin TX
Tomas Ramirez III Laredo TX
Thomas Relyea San Antonio TX
Joshua Reynolds Fort Worth TX
John Richardson Bellville TX
Sergio Rios Lewisville TX
Gabino Rivas Prosper TX
Israel Rodriguez Murphy TX
Jacob Rojo Northlake TX
Sergio Rojo Austin TX
Desmond Romero Austin TX
Richard Ryan Bryan TX
Rachel Sanchez-Ruffa Houston TX
Donald Sandy Boerne TX
Nathaniel Saragosa Dallas TX
Abraham Semerikov Denton TX
Christian Sheward Austin TX
Jay Skidmore Lewisville TX
Jeremy Slater Austin TX
Robert Smith Springhill LA
Chrystal Snow Dallas TX
Ezequiel Soria Argyle TX
Thomas Stahl Springhill LA
Ana Tapia Houston TX
Miguel Teveni San Antonio TX
Savanna Thornton Waco TX
Luis Torres Garcia Santa Rosa TX
Chris Townsend Maumelle AR
Brock Troy Stafford TX
Grant Verdegaal Lewisville TX
Erica Vetra Austin TX
Jonathon Ward Lewisville TX
Travis Weddle Houston TX
Marina Weikel Austin TX
Kai Wester Austin TX
Caleb Williams Wake Forest NC
Heath Williamson Georgetown TX
Jackson Zuber San Antonio TX
Jason Zuniga San Marcos TX

Benefits of Fall Preparation: Getting a Jump on Spring

Controlling Next Spring's Borers and Hungry Leaf Eaters



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Photo Credit: Whitney Cranshaw,
Colorado State Univ., Bugwood.org



The Right Way to Treat a Tree

Member Spotlight

Neill Goss, Goss Tree Service, Waco TX

How long have you been in the tree industry?

My passion for being active and outdoors began at an early age, often climbing our fruitless mulberry and black walnut trees. I have been in the tree service industry since 2007. I quickly joined ISA Texas and became a Certified Arborist in 2011.

What inspired you to become a Certified Arborist?

Trees are fascinating and working with them goes along with my passion for the outdoors. Trees are our patients, and we must strive to learn as much as possible to provide them with the best care. Being a Certified Arborist is an important credential to have when performing work on trees. Supporting ISA is essential, as they are providing us with the research, training, and conferences to further develop our skills.

What do you find most useful about being an ISAT member?

Networking and learning from other arborists are valuable resources. Attending the annual Texas Tree Conference is a great way to meet others in the industry. I have attended every year and always look forward to it. Courses offered through the Texas Chapter of ISA are a great way to gain knowledge. The Arboriculture 101 course was instrumental to me for my foundation of understanding trees. I would encourage anyone new to the industry to attend as many

conferences and courses as possible. In-the-field experience is great but sometimes you need to ask questions to other professionals. There are plenty of experts out there who are willing to share their experiences. It is extremely valuable to have others you can call to discuss current issues or trends in the industry.

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

I love a challenge, and the most enjoyable jobs are the large, dead or hazardous tree removals. Having a team to dismantle a huge tree one piece at a time and bring it down safely is rewarding. Every tree and situation is different; so, every day is a new challenge.

When you're not running Goss Tree Service, what do you like to do?

My wife and two boys (3 and 2 years old) like going to all the local playgrounds and parks in Waco. Cameron Park has great mountain bike trails and a beautiful walking trail along the Brazos River.



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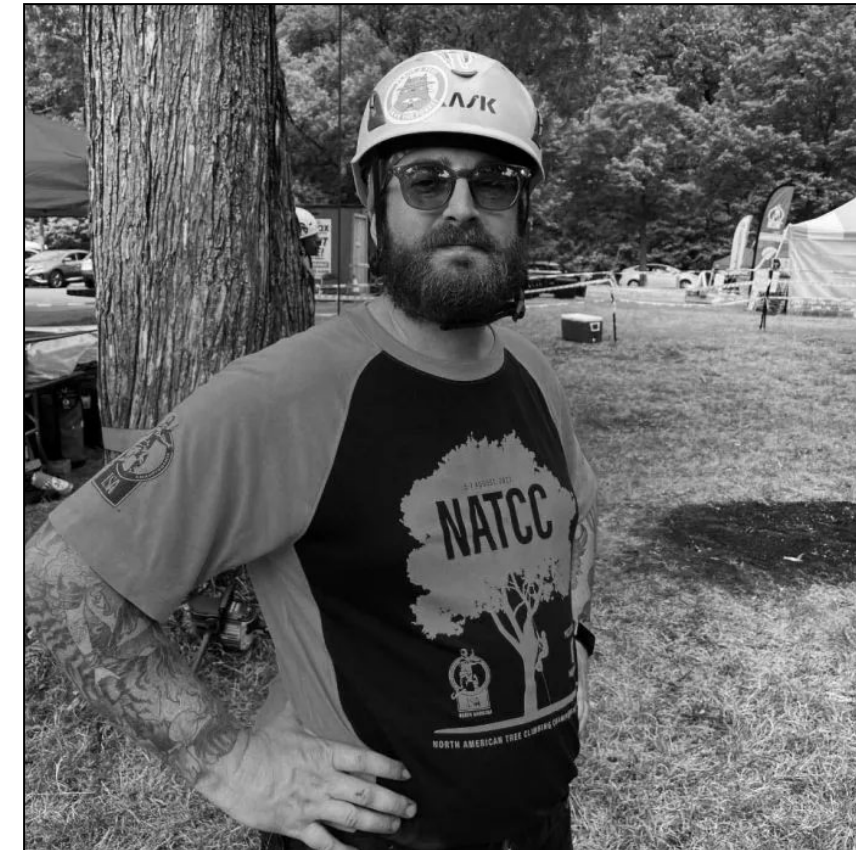
Highlights from the North American Tree Climbing Championship

(August 5-7th in St. Paul, MN)

By Jesse Neumann



There was a pretty interesting event twist where heavy rains and lightning delayed preliminaries until ~1100, when the head judges decided to nix Work Climb and pare back sections of Aerial Rescue in order to reduce overall time needed for all contestants (~50) to compete. Prelims ran from 1100 until 1800 with zero formal breaks for event staff; we were spontaneously given about fifteen minutes around 1300 to cram box lunches. Modified preliminaries were successfully completed prior to a more normal assortment of master's competitive attempts. The Master's Event tree was a real behemoth of a cottonwood that sat about seventy-five yards from the Mississippi River. Another substantial nearby cottonwood hosted an active eagle's nest, excluding it from the weekend's events but providing a pretty stellar spectacle for event-goers.



Left: Jesse Neumann at NATCC 2022.
Below: Arborists participated in the aerial rescue.





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Using PGRS (Plant Growth Regulators) for Urban Tree Management

Corey McCurry, Rainbow , Ecoscience, Arborologist

Installing & Preserving Trees at the Leach Teaching Gardens at Texas A&M University

David Marks, Environmental Design Inc., Central Division V.P.

Current Tree Issues: Laurel Wilt, Phytophthora and Drought Stress

Dr. David Appel, Professor & Plant Pathologist Texas AgriLife Extension

Scale Management Programs

Corey McCurry, Rainbow Ecoscience, Arborologist

Click the link below or scan the QR Code to Register:

CEU's
ISA - Pending
TNLA - Pending



<https://hutc2022.eventbrite.com>

Paul Winski | Horticulture Agent, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Harris County | paul.winski@ag.tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife (AgriLife) is committed to upholding the highest standard of ethical conduct and compliance with the legal obligations of the AgriLife components. In support of these efforts, the AgriLife Ethics & Compliance Office has been established within AgriLife Administrative Services to provide risk and management advisory services, as well as to promote compliance with applicable federal, state, Texas A&M University System, and agency laws, policies, regulations, rules, and procedures.

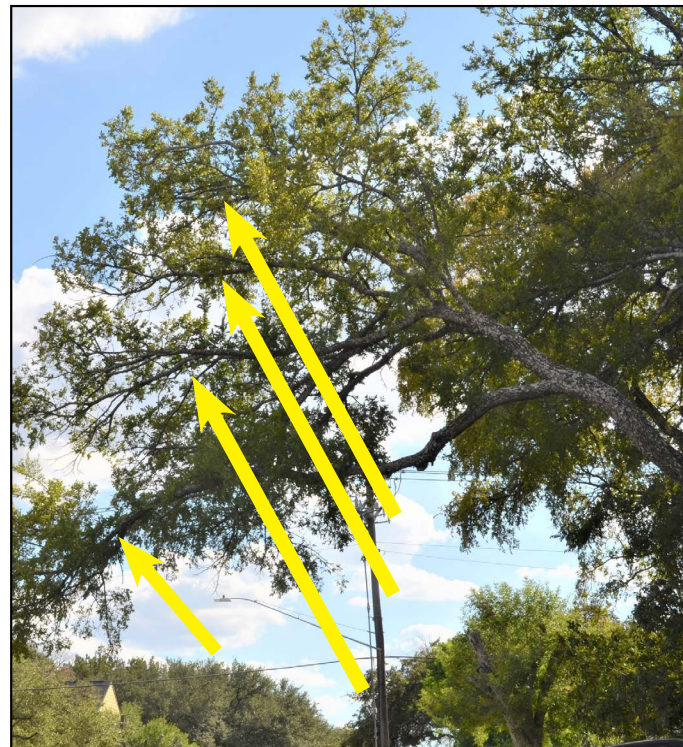
The Trouble with Cedar Elm

by

Patrick Brewer, Bartlett Tree Experts

Cedar elm, *Ulmus crassifolia*, is a durable, native tree adapted to much of our state. While it would not be considered a particularly long-lived tree in many regions, the USDA Forest Service gives it a typical lifespan of 100 years. I consider that a pretty long life relative to other common Texas species.

Perhaps cedar elm gets a bad rap as it is compared to our live oak, which is one of the toughest and strongest trees in the temperate world. But elm does not get oak wilt, which is a plus. Although it is susceptible to Dutch elm disease, I have never found a positive case on cedar elm, and I don't see it as a common problem. With regard to branch strength, most sources put cedar elm wood at 2/3rd's the strength of live oak; relatively strong compared



Top: Cedar elm in need of reduction. Arrows show possible reduction cuts.

Right: Cedar elm 3 years after a reduction cut (at arrow) showing preserved laterals. This results in a strong stem and allows for future reduction.

Right/Facing Page: Cedar elm with that has been stripped out. With the foliage at the tips, there are few options for reduction cuts. This tree is very susceptible to damage from wind and other loads.

to other native species (Texas red oak, etc.). Cedar elms are prone to mistletoe infestation, which if left, can cause disfiguration and weakening of branches. A proper pruning cycle of 2-3 years should help keep the parasite at bay.

So, what is the trouble with cedar elm? We are the trouble with cedar elm. The most common pruning mistake I see, and it is epidemic, is the removal of the lower lateral branches on the scaffold branches of cedar elm. I have heard this called "to canopy a tree" or to "thin out the crown to allow for air and light penetration." It is really just stripping out, lion's-tailing, and gutting the tree. And while a live oak might tolerate this (it still damages the tree), it can be disastrous for cedar elm. The branch failure profile I see with cedar elm is large branch breakage, which is often caused by poor pruning.

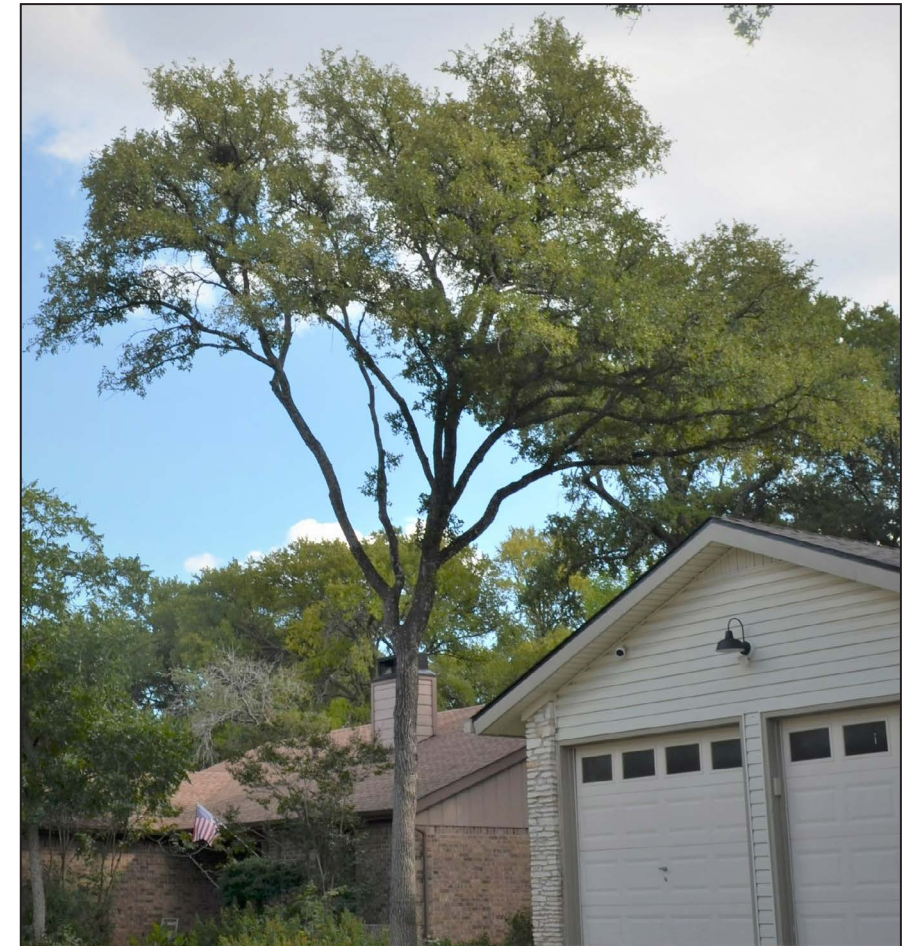
Lion's-tailing increases the risk of branch failure in several ways. It pushes the weight of the crown to the end of the branch, significantly increasing the leverage stress on the stem and its attachment. It also removes the dampening effect of the lower branches, which causes significantly



more branch movement during storms. Thirdly, removing laterals will reduce branch taper, so the branch will break like a broomstick rather than bend like a tapered fishing pole.

How should we approach pruning on cedar elm? You can expect mature and over-mature cedar elms to have amassed defects in the branches and trunk wood, the results of wounds and old storm damage. That comes with the territory. But even young elms can have over-weighted ends. To prune for a resilient crown in elm, we should leave the interior branches and reduce long and over-extended tips. Of the two common pruning cuts, cedar elm requires as many reduction cuts as removal cuts to keep them resilient.

If you are following up a "gutting," you can still prune to reduce the branch end weight and allow new sprouts to try to fill out the center. Wrestle with that a few times and you will not only avoid lion's-tailing trees, but you might also stop others from doing so as you pass them on the street. Friends don't let friends strip out cedar elms!



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Oak Wilt Suppression Program and Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

By Demian F. Gomez

Oak wilt is a lethal disease caused by the fungus, *Bretziella fagacearum*, that infects all species of oaks. The pathogen causes vascular wilt, and the fungus can be spread via above-ground and below-ground transmission. Early detection and prompt action are essential for successful management of oak wilt. Since 1998, the Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) has leveraged federal funds from USFS to deliver financial and technical assistance through the Texas Oak Wilt Suppression Program (TOWSP), to assist landowners in their fight against oak wilt.

In September, the Oak Wilt Advisory Committee met virtually to discuss advances in oak wilt research and provide recommendations. The purpose of the committee is to discuss ongoing oak wilt efforts, review current policies and protocols, and make recommendations on how to improve program delivery and provide value added service to Texans. This year, representatives of TAMFS, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, ISA Texas Chapter, US Forest Service, municipalities, and private sector, met to discuss ongoing projects related to oak wilt. Fungicide treatments, molecular diagnosis, and sap beetle ecology were discussed.

The overall goal of the TOWSP is to minimize the spread of oak wilt in Central Texas. The disease has been detected in 76 counties in Central and West Texas and has been identified as a major threat to the state's forest health in the Texas Forest Action Plan (December 2020).

The TOWSP focuses, in cooperation with multiple private and public partners, on providing public awareness and education about oak wilt, identify and map mortality centers, provide treatment recommendations and cost-shares, and conducting post suppression evaluations on cost-shared treatments.

Trenching to contain the spread of oak wilt or removal of certain diseased red oaks may qualify for cost-shares. Cost-shares for trenching are capped at 40% of approved costs up to \$1,000 per cooperator per year and multiple cooperator project costs are capped at 40% of approved costs up to \$3,000 per project per year. Cost-shares for removal of certain diseased red oaks are capped at 40% of approved costs with a maximum of \$500 per cooperator per year.

Treatments are installed according to TOWSP guidelines and approved by TAMFS personnel. Project guidelines include full containment of the Oak Wilt center within installed trenches and relative isolation of the disease center from other disease centers in the immediate area.



For red oak removals, time of infection and/or death will be considered as not all infected red oaks will form fungal mats. Since the start of the TOWSP, more than 3,000 oak wilt centers have been trenched, with more than 670 miles of trenches installed and 3,700 red oaks removed.

Texas A&M Forest Service has six regional offices throughout Central Texas with staff available to provide technical assistance to landowners concerned about oak wilt on their property. For more information, visit www.texasoakwilt.org and use the "Find My Forester" feature to identify and contact the TAMFS representative serving your county. For more information on oak wilt cost-shares, landowners can visit <https://texasoakwilt.org/getting-help/oak-wilt-cost-share>.



Top: Fungal mat on red oak.

Bottom: Foliar symptoms (*veinal necrosis*) on live oak.

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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: I look like Live Oak, but I'm not. I'm originally from Spain, and I found my home in San Antonio.

LAST MONTH'S TREE ID



Late Summer 2022 winner was Juan Guerra. The tree was Runyon's esenbeckia (*Esenbeckia runyonii*).

This issue's Big Idea submitted by Juan Guerra.