



Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture

June 2023 TreEmail



WHERE TREES COME TO TALK
2023 Texas Tree Conference

Texas Tree Conference and Trade Show

September 20-22, 2023

Waco Convention Center, Waco, Texas

Register Now!

Sign up for the biggest and best Texas Tree Conference yet!

Visit with old friends and make new ones, hear from great speakers, earn CEUs and more. There will be tracks for Commercial, Municipal and Utility Arborists with plenty of time to socialize and visit the exhibitors at the expanded Trade Show.

You can attend several events this year including:

- The Thursday and Friday Tree Conference and Trade Show that includes educational tracks for Commercial, Municipal and Utility Arborists, an awards luncheon, networking socials, receptions and more. New this year, there will be a full Spanish language track!
- This year there will be three Wednesday pre-conference Tree Academies. Also on Wednesday, there will be a TRAQ renewal course and a Certified Arborist exam.
- And the popular Friday Tree Schools for English and Spanish-speaking tree workers and supervisors.

[Register here](#) (*Texas Chapter members receive a 10% discount - [Join here](#)*)

[More information here](#)



2023 Texas Tree Climbing Championship And the winners are...

...Dustin Goodman and Star Quintero

A big thank you to all the climbers, judges, techs, sponsors and exhibitors! This year's event was held on May 19-20 in beautiful Richard Moya Park in Austin. Look in the upcoming August edition of the ISAT In the Shade newsletter for a write-up with all the competition details.

Dustin and Star will be representing the Texas Chapter in the International Tree Climbing Competition in Albuquerque this August. Good Luck!

[Click here for more details on the competition](#)



2023 Texas Tree Awards Help us find and recognize the best in Texas Deadline - July 28, 2023

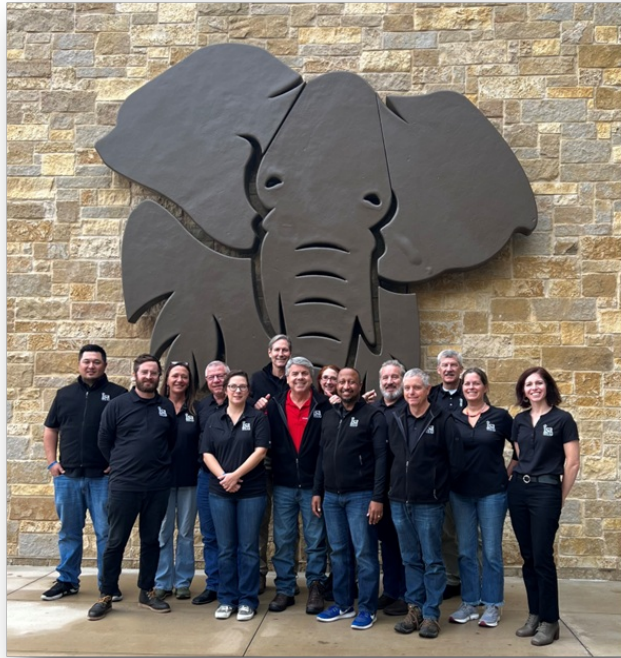
Celebrate the accomplishments of those who have dedicated their talents to spreading a leafy green canopy over Texas by nominating them for the 2023 Texas Community Forestry Awards Program. Nominate yourself or another! Awards will be presented at the awards banquet at the Texas Tree Conference.

Award Categories:

- Arborist of the Year
- Gold Leaf - Outstanding Landscape Improvement

- Arboricultural Project of the Year
- Outstanding Community Forestry Program

[Submit a nomination here](#)



Texas Chapter ISA Board of Directors Nominations

Deadline - July 28, 2023

How can you share your knowledge and experience with others? How can you give something back and leave a legacy to your profession? How can you develop as a leader?

Serve!

Nominations are being sought from the ISAT membership to fill several positions on the ISAT Board of Directors. You may nominate yourself or another qualified ISAT member interested in serving on the ISAT Board.

The Election Committee will fill the slate from the nominations. Elections will be held in August and the Board members will be installed at the annual membership meeting at the Texas Tree Conference in Waco this September.

ISAT will be holding the election by e-ballot so if you need a paper copy mailed to you call Gene at ISAT at 817.395.9055.

[Click here for more information](#)



TRAQ Renewal September 20 - Waco

The Texas Chapter ISA is offering an ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) renewal. You can register for a renewal if you already have a current TRAQ credential and are within 18 months prior to your expiration date.

The TRAQ Renewal Course is a one-day refresher, with five hours of instruction, and three hours to take the exam and will be offered just before the Texas Tree Conference in Waco.

[September 20: Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Renewal- Waco](#)



June Volunteer Spotlight Steve and Kirbie Houser

How did you end up in tree care?

SH: When I was quite young, I was outside all the time. If I was mad at someone, I would be up in my favorite climbing tree (a Mimosa). In the 1970's, I was working for a golf course to pay my way through college, and they asked me to work on their trees using a bucket truck. Before graduating college, I met Plant Pathologist, Kevin Bassett, who taught me how to climb and the biology of trees. We worked together on the weekends and started our company after my graduation. We realized early on that we have a great respect, and reverence for trees, tree climbers, and those in the tree care industry.

KHP: I never anticipated working or staying in the tree care industry. I knew (vaguely) what my dad did for a living and what he spent a good portion of his time volunteering for, but I never really considered that as a path for myself. I was working a part time job as a grocery store cashier when I was 17 and my dad came home one day and asked if I wanted to help temporarily at the office as they were switching computer systems and needed data entry help. The pay was better than a grocery store cashier, so of course I said yes. It turned out the data entry went pretty quick, so they offered me a full-time position, and here we are 14 years and many company hats later, I'm still here and get more interested in tree care every year.

What about the tree climbing championship makes you keep coming back every year to

ensure its success?

SH: We attended our first competition called the “tree climbers Jamboree” in 1983 and although it was very unsafe, we absolutely loved it! Just a few of the reasons we come back every year would include:

- * The competition is THE event of the year for climbers. The thrill and excitement of victory... the agony of defeat. Even though I don't climb much anymore, I still look forward to the “jamboree.”

- * The ability to learn from others about current techniques and equipment, which helps to keep our industry safer and climbing smarter.

- * The joy of spending time with new and old diehard competition supporters. Once you have climbed long enough, it just becomes a part of your DNA and the same is true for the competition. Some climbers live for the competition.

- * The fact that we have always felt an obligation to give back to our industry, especially the hard-working climbers.

- * The lack of support from others during the early years and even today...requires all those with experience to do their part, every year. Also, teaching and inspiring the next generation of competition climbers and supporters is important to its future success.

- * The fact that tree climbing requires a great deal of physical and mental strength plus it is one of the most dangerous jobs that exist. As a result, there is a feeling of true brotherhood and camaraderie that exists between climbers. Hearing the loud cheers and support for a fellow climber or watching some of the best climbers in the state as they gracefully ascend a rope or swing from limb to limb. There is nothing quite like it and all arborists should attend a competition or offer their help. You don't have to be a climber to help!

KHP: The people! I started helping by entering and running scores in 2010 and quickly felt at home with all the personalities and humor that seem unique to those involved in tree care. I was sort of re-introduced to all the arborists and climbers that I had seen since I was little, but from a different viewpoint now that I was involved and wasn't just Houser's daughter running around the place. I remember walking away at the end of that first competition with the impression that I belonged in this space and felt a genuine appreciation for all the time and effort everyone gives to make these events happen. To me, it seems there is a collective understanding that the time and sweat each volunteer gives without individual or personal gain is truly worth the opportunity and education it provides to better our industry- and I've seen evidence that it is worth it. I remember the skill and understanding of safe and professional practices was at a very different level across competitors and volunteers in 2010 than it is now in 2023 (in that it has improved greatly), just as my dad noted how different it was in 1983, and that is truly exciting and in its own way, addicting.

What does it mean to you to work together in this shared vision? (Could be the TTCC, tree care, etc...however you want to interpret it)

SH: To have my daughter actively involved in our industry and the competition is a source of great pride. To also have her involved as the assistant general manager in our company means a great deal to me and the company's future. I am very fortunate to work with her every day.

KHP: Everything I have learned in a professional setting is thanks to the opportunities my dad has provided for me, and much of what I've learned has spilled over into all aspects of my life. We've been through so much together in the company- the ups and downs of the economy, managing people, educating clients the best we can- and all of that has helped us to gain a shared perspective that makes me really wonder where I would have ended up if I didn't take that offer for a temp job! Now, 14 years later, I not only get to work with and see my dad every day, but I also met and work with my husband Miguel who is a (champion) tree climber, and I'm lucky enough to have our son, Hugo, who entered this world just under a year ago, come to work with me as well.

What is one piece of wisdom you would share with the third generation of Houser's?

SH: To maintain a healthy balance in life is important but often hard to achieve. To plant, protect, celebrate, and properly care for our trees and forests is a worthy gift for future generations to enjoy.

KHP: Since I come from generations of free-thinkers; do what you think and feel is right- not what others tell you is right.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ALBUQUERQUE, NM

AUGUST 14 - 16, 2023

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2023 ISA Annual Conference August 14-16 - Albuquerque

Join arborists from around the world at the ISA 2023 Annual International Conference in Albuquerque, NM this August.

The ISA 2023 Annual international Conference offers a forum for participants to learn and network with others in the arboricultural profession. This event provides a lineup of keynote speakers and educational breakout sessions led by industry leaders from around the globe, sharing their thoughts and views about research, practice, and technology.

[More information here](#)

Texas Notes:

- [Support Mino's ride for tree research in the Tour des Trees here](#)
 - [Heat exhaustion vs. heat stroke: Symptoms, what's the difference, what to do](#)
 - [Pecan leaves are breaking out - phylloxera](#)
 - [Who Should Buy Used Tree Care Equipment, and Why?](#)
 - [Tree-killing Emerald Ash Borer confirmed in Cooke County](#)
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National Notes:

- [Trees climb up cities' priority lists after getting a \\$1.5 billion boost in federal funding](#)
 - [Banding Eaglets: A new niche for tree climbers](#)
 - [Where does wood come from?](#)
 - [Will the American chestnut be back?](#)
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International Society of Arboriculture Notes:

- [ISA 2023 International Conference in Albuquerque, NM](#)
 - [Check out the updated Best Management Practices: Root Management](#)
 - [Climbers' Edge newsletter](#)
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Calendar of Events

Members receive notice of events before non-members, and events often sell out quickly. Don't miss out - join today!

July:

- [July 11 to Aug. 1: Certified Arborist Prep Course - Austin](#)

August:

- [Aug 2: TRAQ - Virtual Renewal Course - Online](#)
- [Aug. 9-11: Texas Nursery and Landscape Expo - San Antonio](#)
- [Aug. 11-13: International Tree Climbing Championship - Albuquerque](#)
- [Aug 14-16: International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference - Albuquerque](#)

September:

- [Sept. 1: ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Paper Exam - Austin](#)
- [Sept. 8 to Oct. 6: Certified Arborist Prep Course - San Antonio](#)
- [Sept. 20: Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Renewal- Waco](#)
- [Sept. 20: ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam - Waco](#)

- Sept. 20-22: Texas Tree Conference, Academy, Trade Show and Tree Schools - Waco
- Sept. 26-Oct. 2: Tour de Trees - NV & CA

October:

- Oct. 16: Partners in Community Forestry Conference - Washington, D.C.
- Oct. 20: North American Tree Climbing Championship - Washington, D.C.
- Oct. 25: Society of American Foresters National Convention - Sacramento

November:

- Nov. 1: TRAQ Virtual Renewal Course - Online
 - Nov. 17: ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, Municipal Specialist Paper Exam - Fort Worth
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**Not a Texas Chapter ISA Member?
Click Here**

Texas Chapter ISA | 817.395.9055 | www.ISATexas.com

