

In the Shade



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
SUMMER 2023



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International Society
of Arboriculture

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From the President

Summer is here. We're in that portion of the year that the main questions are "how hot will it get today?" and "how early will it happen?" It's a good time to stop and take stock – is your safety training up to date? Does your crew know how to recognize the signs of heat exhaustion or, heaven forbid, heat stroke?

As I write this, the Texas Tree Climbing Championship is still in the future. We've got our plans in place – volunteers, insurance, location and climbing roster. We have lots of fabulous competitors raring to go. By the time you get this newsletter, the wait will be over and we'll have honored our best climbers. Climbing comps are hugely important to our industry. It's great to see the camaraderie among the climbers, as they cheer for each other and show off their latest gear. So many advances in safety have come as a result of comps. If you didn't make it to this year's, I encourage you to start planning to attend next year's. Even better, make sure your crew leaders go and learn from the best.

We honor the best climbers at our comp, but that's not the only way we honor our members. We also honor

outstanding projects and programs and name our "Arborist of the Year" at our annual conference. Check out the nomination form here <https://isatexas.com/members/awards/> and nominate someone deserving. Nominations close July 28.

It's also time for looking forward - our new board year starts during our annual conference, at that time we have people go off the board and we need new board members to join. Nominations to join the board are open until July 28. Board members are incredibly important to the organization, taking charge of planning our events and our future. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the board, find the nomination form at <https://isatexas.com/about/2023-elections/>. As I look back over my tenure on the board, I can say that it has been a rewarding experience and has enabled me to better understand the organization as a whole.

See you in the trees,

Rebecca



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Summer 2023

Vol. 47, No. 1



The summer night is
like a perfection
of thought."

— Wallace Stevens




Texas Chapter
International Society
of Arboriculture

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

Chinese Fringetree (*Chionanthus retusus*) puts on a show.

Certification Exams

September 1, 2023 —
Austin, TX

September 20, 2023 —
Waco, TX

November 17, 2023 —
Fort Worth, TX

More info at ISATexas.com



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 the proposed new project for Arboretum San Antonio on page 7 and nomination information for the “2023 Tree Awards” on page 19. Also, take a peek at the “2023 Events Update” on page 18 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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New Members

Kelsey BakerHaslet TX
Caitlyn BaldiniSan Marcos TX
Nicanor Buitron.....Wylie TX
Rogelio CamachoRosenberg TX
Sarah Caszatt.....Austin TX
Kay Chupik.....Garland TX
Tamberly Conway.....Lubbock TX
Julio Cruz.....Kyle TX
Daniel DrennanHouston TX
Leonel DuranMcAllen TX
Mark EdinburghGarland TX
Matthew EnriquezPearland TX
Henry Gonzalez.....Burleson TX
Audrey GonzalezAustin TX
Hugo GutierrezKaty TX
Nathan GuyAustin TX
Sean Hager.....Austin TX
Meagan Harvey.....Spring Branch TX
Caleb Hayes.....Temple TX
Gary HernandezElgin TX
Justin HurleyChandler TX
Chris KiferRound Rock TX
Ian LillyLubbock TX
Mary Beth MackenzieNew Braunfels TX
Eric MaldonadoFort Worth TX
Mac Martin.....College Station TX
Jose NavarroWylie TX
Vicente Navarro.....Wylie TX
John Nellist.....Frankston TX
Randall OneyAustin TX
L PaustianAustin TX
Travis PerezSan Antonio TX
Julie RachuiLeander TX
Isaiah RamosLubbock TX
Mathew Rephan.....Austin TX
Adrian SotoFort Worth TX
Regan StewartPflugerville TX
Sau VillaSan Angelo TX
Shane WalstonMaud TX
Faron WattsAustin TX
Savanna WilliamsAustin TX
Shadiq WilliamsonGeorgetown TX
David WuthBurleson TX
Ethan Zies.....Weatherford TX

Newly Certified Members

CAMichael BurtonAustin TX
CA-U.....Michael ColeWaxahachie TX
CAKyle DittfurthLivingston TX
CAGlen Gillman.....Austin ... TX
CAMargaret GullionHouston TX
CAMarcus Herrera.....San Antonio TX
CAAlbert HowellAustin TX
CAJacob HurtadoAlice TX
CAMartin OrtegaGarland TX
CAJason Plunk.....Spring TX
CAMatthew RuizLeander TX
CAAnthony Sanchez.....Boerne TX
CARebecca SetliffGeorgetown TX
CA-U.....Jacob TaylorMarble Falls TX
CADaniel TiceCollege Station TX
CACurtis WrightSan Angelo TX
CADavid WuthBurleson TX



Arboretum San Antonio Sited for Social Equity

Article and photos contributed by Rachel Cywinski, ISAT Professional Member

The mission statement of the future Arboretum San Antonio (ASA) is to “create momentum to establish a special place to celebrate our heritage through native trees.” Finding a site in southern Bexar County, where the confluence of many creeks with the San Antonio River begins its journey to the Gulf of Mexico, was essential to Henry Cisneros, former San Antonio mayor and past Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Tom Corser, a Texas A&M graduate retired from Jupiter Networks two years, is now the chief executive officer while also continuing to serve as vice chairman of the board of directors. Corser envisions the Arboretum “as equity driver, an important and verdant and attractive asset on the Southside; large-scale open-to-public facility where people can revere trees from the San Antonio region; a place of quiet repose, learning, place of enjoyment for people of all ages.”

Jaci Randel, Executive Director of Bexar Branches Alliance, said, “The creation of the Arboretum San Antonio on the south side of the city, dedicating 188 acres to trees in one of the most vulnerable parts of San Antonio, is an important environmental, educational, and economic resource for that part of our community. The benefits will reach far beyond its grounds.”

Bexar Branches Alliance (BBA) is a data-driven nonprofit organization that focuses on communities and current climate reality using themes of heat island, social vulnerability, and equity.

Randel hopes local and regional governments will bring about an equitable society by first eliminating racial disparities—systemic problems that they have tools to counteract.

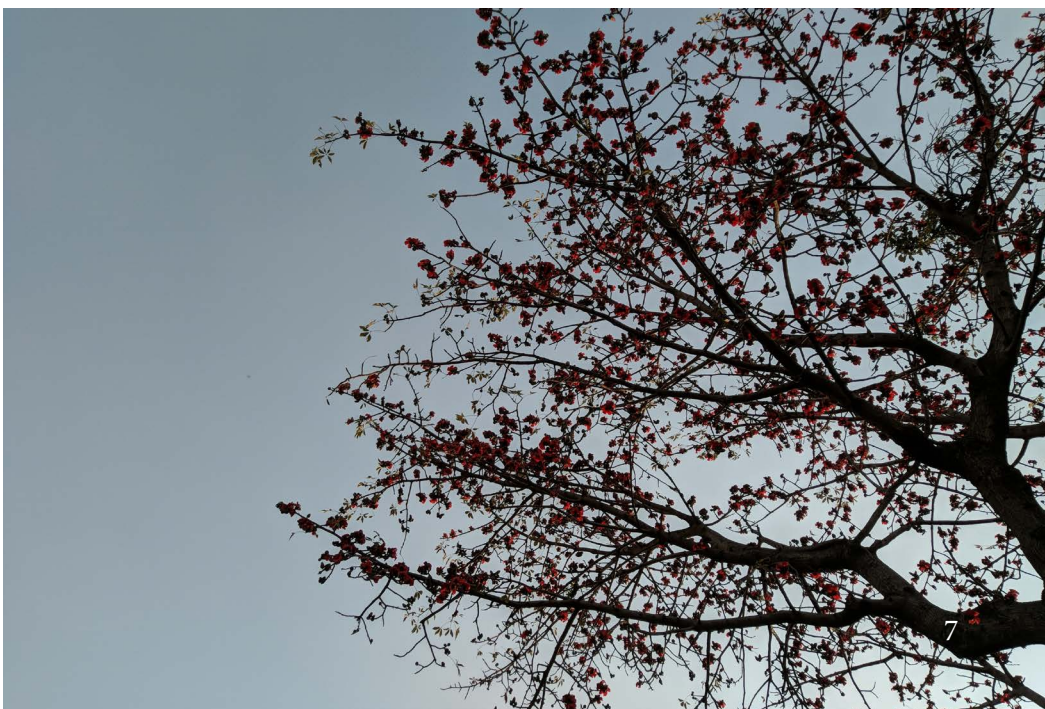
Randel stated that Bexar County is losing its urban forest quickly in land development and due to effects of extreme weather. The location of Arboretum San Antonio in an area of high racial inequity and vulnerability to disasters is important.

With the acquisition of 18 acres, lease of 170 acres from Brooks Development Authority and supportive funding from Bexar County, in May 2023, ASA leadership is poised to aggressively pursue creation of a master plan for the site along Salado Creek and transformation of the former Republic of Texas Golf Course.

The vision of ASA is: “Our Trees: A living heritage branching generations”. City of San Antonio Arborist Mark Bird, who grew up amongst the trees along Salado Creek in Fort Sam Houston, emphasized that ASA will be “unique to San Antonio.”

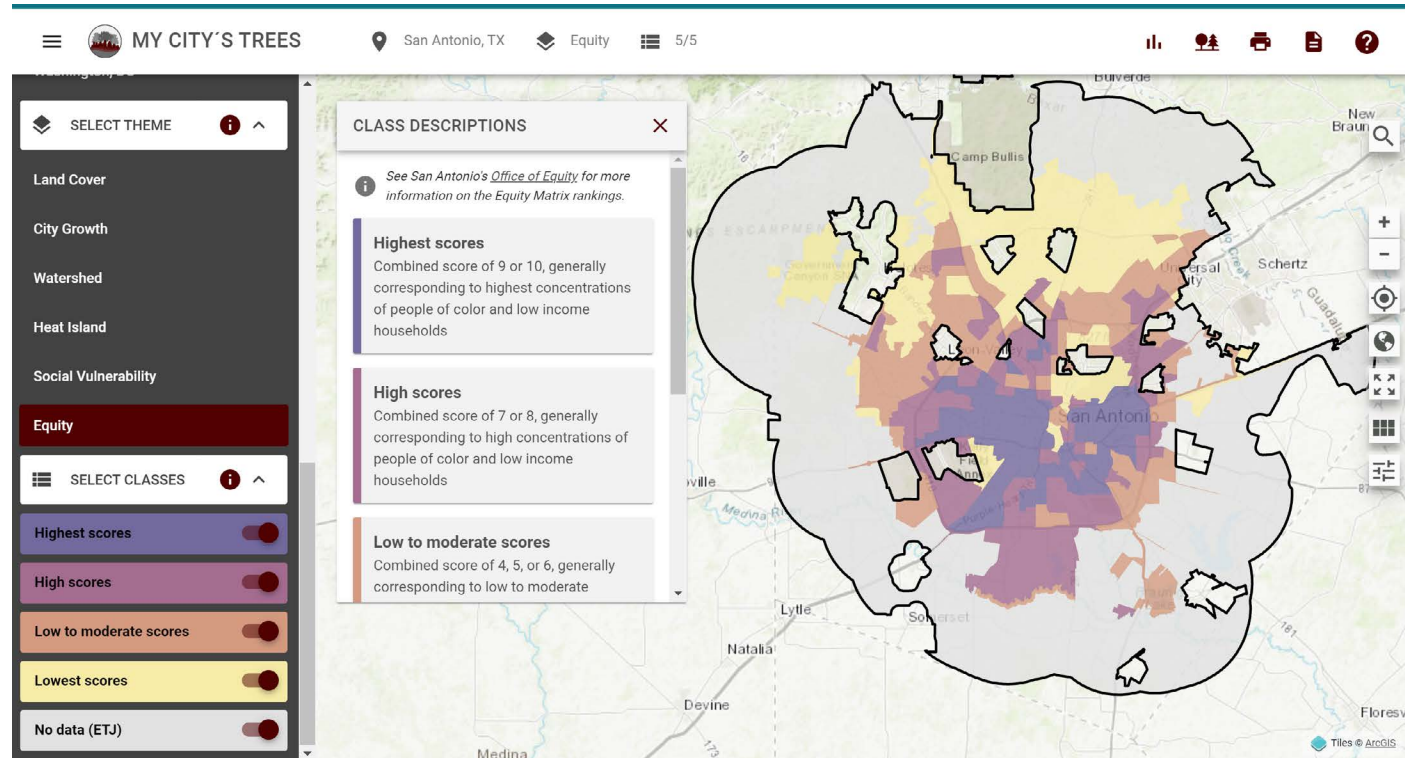
Randel said, “Trees can play an important part in making our most vulnerable communities safer, healthier, and cooler through their many benefits. Trees help clean our air and water, cool our climate, are good for both our mental and physical health, and can help provide food sovereignty to communities by strategically planting fruit, nut, and other edible varieties that are appropriate for that area.”

Corser said the master planning consultants will be selected based upon commitment to developing the native plant destination that is best for South Texas, best for that part of San Antonio and best for all the people of San Antonio.



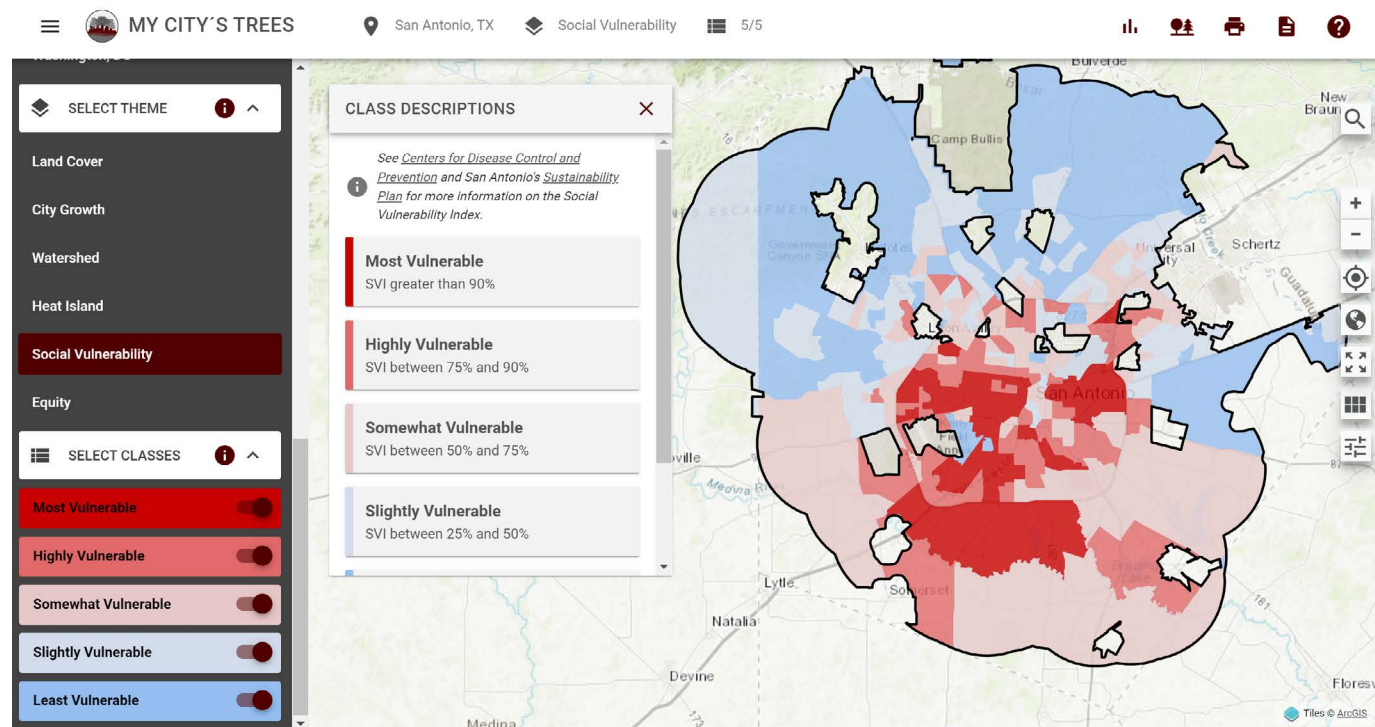
“Trees can play an important part in making our most vulnerable communities safer, healthier, and cooler through their many benefits.”

—Jaci Randel, Executive Director of Bexar Branches Alliance



Above: Application of the City of San Antonio Office of Equity (SAOE) Atlas in the 'My City's Trees' database shows concentrated areas of racial inequity around the Arboretum San Antonio site. Map supplied by Jaci Randel of Bexar Branches Alliance.

Below: Application of data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and from City of San Antonio Sustainability Plan in the My City's Trees database shows the Arboretum San Antonio site amidst neighborhoods at high risk of potential negative effects caused by external stresses on human health. Map supplied by Jaci Randel of Bexar Branches Alliance.



Continued on page 10...

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- Aerial Lift Operations 2: Aerial Lift Rescue - Also **en español**
- Electrical Hazards Awareness Program (EHAP) - Also **en español**
- Ground Operations 1: Fundamentals - Also **en español**
- Ground Operations 2: Chipper Specialist - Also **en español**
- Ground Operations 3: Chain Saw Specialist - Also **en español**
- Ground Operations 4: Tree Rigging and Removal - Also **en español**
- Tree Climber Specialist 1: Fundamentals
- Tree Climber Specialist 2: Aerial Work
- Tree Climber Specialist 3: Climbing Aerial Rescue
- Tree Climber Specialist 4: Rigging Operations Aloft
- Intro to Arboriculture Safety - Also **en español**

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

Pricing varies.

Scan here to go directly to our online learning center.

TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION | TCIA.ORG/OnlineLearning

...Continued from page 8



Left:
The site of former Republic of Texas Golf Course will become part of the 188-acre Arboretum San Antonio.





Photos by Rachel Cywinski.

Right:
Rendering of possible renovation of Republic of Texas Golf Course provided by Arboretum San Antonio.



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Visit the Website for more details
about the 2023 ISA Texas Tree
Conference:

[www.ISATexas.com/Events/
2023-texas-tree-conference/](http://www.ISATexas.com/Events/2023-texas-tree-conference/)

2023 Elections

Texas Chapter ISA Elections – Call for Nominations is now out!
Applications are due by 5:00 PM, Friday, 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 yourself 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.

If you have any questions about serving, contact Mark Bird, 2023 ISAT Election Chair at 210.748.1966 or at mark.bird@sanantonio.gov. (ISAT will again be holding the election by e-ballot – if you need a paper ballot mailed to you, call Gene at ISAT at 817.395.9055)

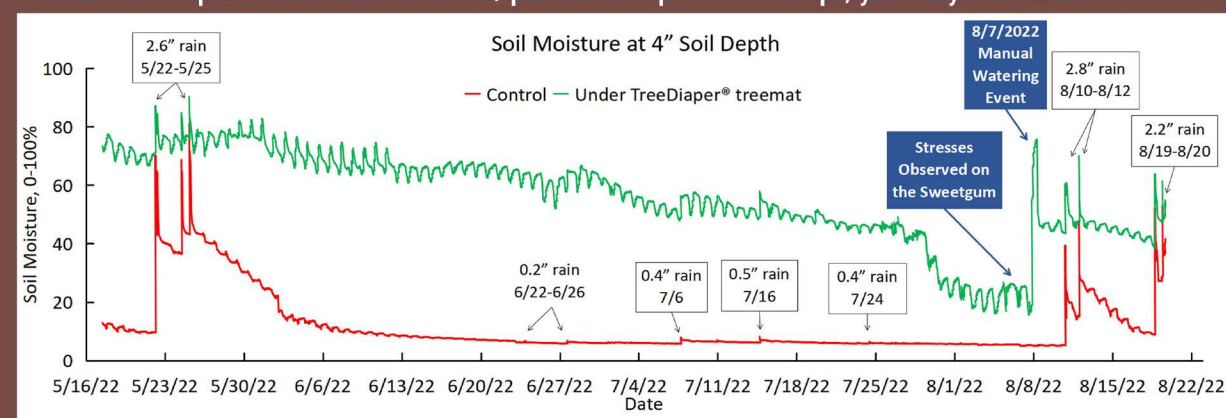


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Member Spotlight

Bruce Kreidler

How did you get into tree care and how long have you been doing this?

I didn't come to tree work in the normal way. Although I always liked trees, even since I was in kindergarten, when I reached adulthood, I entered a heavy industrial field (drilling rigs) and made a good career out of that. However, I had never forgotten my fascination with trees, and even when working on drilling rigs, I always kept an interest in trees, and accidentally started a tree business (that's a long story), which took up all my spare time. Finally, it reached a point where I was no longer going to be able to both work on drilling rigs, which I was good at and enjoyed, and also keep up with my tree work/studies. While it was a tough choice, obviously, I decided to go into the full-time tree business. While I certainly miss working on rigs, I have no regrets and have thoroughly enjoyed the tree business, and definitely found it to be challenging enough to keep my full attention (sometimes it's a little more challenging than I like, but then again, that's the nature of challenges). I will say that my industrial background, where I was essentially a professional problem solver with his own personal twenty pound sledge hammer (sometimes more force is the answer), has been extremely helpful in working on trees and running a tree service.

What inspires you about tree care?

While I like trees, and really enjoy knowing a fair bit about them, and being able to help the ones that need it (if they can be helped), I really like the customer base I have built up and get a lot of pleasure in being able to either help my customers, or at least explain to them what is going on with their trees. Personally, I think the larger part of being an urban forester is the people we work with, more than the trees. Developing the people skills to be able to communicate effectively with tree owners, while being something of a tree advocate, is quite the challenge, and I have thoroughly enjoyed developing those skills, and putting them to good use.

Why did you become a Texas Chapter ISA member?

Actually, I had not intended to become an ISA member, or Certified Arborist, but one of my friends who was a Certified Arborist, told me that since I was already doing all the studying, I was being foolish (I think he actually used the word idiot) to not go ahead and



join the ISA and take the Certified Arborist exam. On reflection, I decided he was right, and I signed up. What I didn't know before becoming a Certified Arborist, was how useful all the continuing education programs would be. I have found a lot of benefits of being a member of the ISA, but the one I have enjoyed the most, and made the most use of, is the continuing education opportunities. By the way, I have the Municipal Specialist certification, Utility Arborist certification, TRAQ, Oak Wilt qualification, and am a BCMA. Clearly, the continuing education program has been very beneficial to me. I don't take vacations, instead using the time to go to the annual tree conference and different CEU events, as I enjoy them at least as much as I would a vacation. Without that first step of joining the ISA, I would have missed out on all of that.

Broken Willow Tree Service provides many services to customers; which one is your favorite?

Helping people with "sick trees." While this is what I consider the most complicated part of my work, and this is also where I have the most failures, I get a lot of satisfaction from being able to return trees to a better vigor, and/or keep them in good enough condition to be retained by the owners. This facet of work is also where the continuing education opportunities offered by the ISA are the most helpful. Even at this point in my career, I still consider myself to be fairly ignorant, and I always learn something at the CEU events I attend. Those extra things that I learn at such events translate directly into better service for my customers and more personal satisfaction for me.

I think you have all of the ISA credentials; what made you want to earn each?

I've already mentioned how I got started with the Certified Arborist accreditation, so I won't rehash that. As far as the Municipal Specialist goes, in the region where I live/work, no municipality has any kind of arborist on staff, much less a Municipal Specialist. How this worked out for me was that some of the municipalities and even large institutions would reach out to me for information, service, or suggestions. Essentially, I was already doing some of the work of a municipal arborist, so I thought getting that particular certification would help with that kind of work (better results for customers) as both a "standing" issue, and for educational activities. I was also working with electrical utilities (when I took the Utility Specialist exam, one of the requirements for taking it was you had to be working for, or have a contract with an electrical utility, which I did). So, for the ability to know the job better, I did the studying, applied to take the test, and of course, passed it. I have never regretted getting either of those certifications and have found the continuing education needed to keep both of them useful, and interesting. Finally, for the BCMA, I knew a fair number of BCMA's, and as a group, had a lot of respect for their knowledge and experience. Frankly, I do like a challenge, and passing the test (and it was indeed a tough test) and joining that group looked like a pretty good challenge. It was, but it also turned out to be a very good next step in my career. Again, no regrets, becoming a BCMA has been pretty much all advantage. I certainly don't think the long road to BCMA is for everybody, but for those who would like to try it, my suggestion is to go for it. By the way, before I decided to "go for it" on the BCMA, one day I was whining to Dr. Watson about having to be a PhD in order to pass the BCMA, and he more or less told me I was being a sissy about it and should just go ahead and shoot for it. For those of you who don't know Dr. Watson, you should try to fix that, as he is a really great guy, and an extremely smart tree type.

When you're not doing arborist work, what other things do you enjoy doing?

That's easy, I like to read. I read a lot, and all kinds of different things. While that has certainly helped me in working with trees (it really helps your tree work if you have actually read the reference books the ISA sells, versus just owning them), I just really like to read. Thankfully, my wife tolerates this (As I re-read books and don't let good reference material out of my hands, I've had to have a lot of extra bookshelves built in our house). Also, while I spent the majority of my life as a pretty introverted person (Oddly enough, I was a True Professional award finalist in 2011, and actually won the award in 2012, at least partially for all the public speaking I was doing about trees, which is not normal introvert behavior), I now make a real effort to spend time with my friends. My wife (of almost forty years) and I are also heavily involved in our community, and I even did a term on the Abilene City Council. As you can imagine, we (and my wife is a Court Reporter) have built busy lives for ourselves, which we quite enjoy.

If you could share one piece of wisdom you're learned, what would it be?

Be the best you can be. That sounds trite, and I'm certainly not the first to say it, but the truth is, whatever you do in life, there are a lot of other people doing it already, and the best way to stand out from the crowd is to eschew mediocrity. Be the person known for being at the top of your field, whatever that field is. I've had two completely different careers, and have done very well in both, and that's because I'm always determined to do whatever I'm doing, to the very best of my abilities. Since I'm not overly endowed with brains, I have substituted determination and grit instead. As that has worked out well for me, I suggest it for other people.

*Bruce Kreitler is the owner Broken Willow Tree Service
in Abilene, TX ■*

Texas Tree Critters

Woolly Bear Caterpillar: *Hypercompe scribonia*

- Larva of the Great Leopard Moth—which is the largest eastern tiger moth.
- Large caterpillars are covered in stiff black bristles with red intersegmental stripes.
- Mature caterpillars can grow to 3 inches in length
- Usually active in the Spring.
- May curl up as a defensive position (similar to sowbug/pillbug).
- Pest Status: Caterpillars feed on a variety of plants and vegetative debris but aren't considered a nuisance in the garden. ■



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Summer 2023 Events Update

ISA Texas has hosted/assisted with over 20 events in the first half of 2023. Fall is conference season. The Texas Tree Conference in Waco September 20-22 is shaping up to have another “Treemendous” agenda. Mark your calendars now! The registration will be out soon!

The last scheduled full TRAQ course in Houston sold out. If you want to attend a full TRAQ course in the Austin/San Antonio area in early December, please email me (gene@isatexas.com) ISA Texas will host a fourth TRAQ course this year if there is demand. If you are TRAQ credentialed, you have two in-person options to renew each year. Once in the spring and the Wednesday before the annual conference in Waco. We have also partnered with the Southern chapter to host quarterly virtual TRAQ renewals.

Chris Luley and Frank Rinn presented their “Decay Workshop” April 24-25 in Arlington to a packed house. The Texas Oak Wilt Qualifications in Glen Rose May 25-26 and at the Hye Meadow Winery June 8-9 both sold out. There virtual option was less well-received, further indication people prefer to be in-person. We also hosted a virtual TOWQ renewal on May 31st.

Date	Event	Location
June 20-22	TRAQ	HCFCD 102 MTSC Pavillion Houston - 20 registered
Aug. 2	TRAQ Renewal Online	Partnership with the Southern Chapter
Aug. 9-11	Texas Nursery and Landscape Expo	San Antonio- booth
Aug. 13-15	ISA Annual Conference	Albuquerque
Sept. 20-22	ISAT Texas Tree Conference, Trade Show, Academy, and Tree School	Waco Convention Center
Sept. 20	TRAQ Renewal with Skip Kincaid	Waco Convention Center
Sept. 26-Oct. 2	TREE Fund Tour de Trees	Nevada/CA - support riders for tree research
Oct. 20-22	NATCC	D.C. area
Nov. 1	TRAQ Renewal Online	Partnership with the Southern Chapter
Nov. 3	Texas State Arbor Day	Multiple locations



The 2023 Texas Tree Award nominations are due by July 28

Celebrate the accomplishments of those who have dedicated their talents to spreading a leafy green canopy over Texas by nominating them for the 2022 Texas Community Forestry Awards Program. This program is open to anyone who has a role in building stronger communities by planting, maintaining or protecting trees.

Winners scheduled to be recognized during the 2023 Texas Tree Conference Awards Luncheon in Waco on

Thursday, September 12st. Each award winner will receive a numbered, remarked and framed, limited-edition print of a famous Texas tree painting especially commissioned for the program.

The Texas Community Forestry Awards Program is sponsored by the Texas A&M Forest Service and the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.
Nominate here: <https://forms.office.com/r/6hZLzZ9Yy0>

There are four award categories this year

Arborist of the Year: Nominations for individual awards are evaluated for leadership, commitment, innovation, impact and sustainability. The arborist should have at least 10 years of experience in the industry and demonstrated exemplary service and/or leadership within the field of arboriculture.

Gold Leaf : Outstanding Landscape Improvement: This award recognizes individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have made significant contributions through tree planting and landscaping which enhances environmental protection, conservation, beautification, energy conservation, or wildlife protection. Projects must show significant impact over several years.

Arboricultural Project of the Year: Recognition of a short-term specific tree care, protection, or planting project that exemplifies arboricultural best practices and customer service. Nominees may include arborists, tree care companies, utilities, landscape contractors, etc. There must be an ISA Certified Arborist of record affiliated with the project. The project must clearly demonstrate above-and-beyond tree care practices.

Outstanding Community Forestry Program: An award to recognize individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have promoted community forestry through a program that significantly engages, educates, or enhances the community. Project or program must clearly engage with the community and actively promote best practices. ■





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What's the Big IDEa?



Hint: "This is the hardest one, yet!"

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.

Last Issue's Tree ID



Last issue's winner:
Chris McMasters; tree was: Lateleaf
Oak (*Quercus tardifolia*)

New challenge submitted by:
Chris McMasters