

# In the Shade

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER  
LATE SUMMER 2023**



Texas Chapter  
International Society  
of Arboriculture





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## From the President

Wow, it's August already, the year has flown by. As my presidency term draws to an end, I'm, of course, looking back and taking stock of the year that has been. It's been an interesting year with many long-time members having life changes.

We've replaced board members and our long-term Executive Director has decided he's ready to start the retirement process. We have an interim director in place until we complete our search and hiring process for a permanent director.

Board service with the chapter follows a certain progression. Most of us come on for a 3-year term and then stick around for another term (or more) before deciding to either rotate off the board or enter into the leadership track. Once in the leadership track, you serve as Vice President, then President Elect, President and then, finally, Past President. I entered board service as the Newsletter Editor, which is a 1-year term, and was re-elected several times before I decided to move into the leadership track.

As I look back over my past 8 years of service, I've seen quite a few changes in the board and the chapter, and I've been honored to serve

alongside some truly great women and men. We've grown a lot as a chapter. Our needs have changed, and we had to ask our Executive Director to bring in additional support staff to meet our increasing obligations. We added the Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification, added the Women's Tree Climbing Workshop, expanded the number of educational offerings by adding webinars, and we've increased the opportunities to learn by recording our conferences and offering individual talks for later watching, all while continuing our existing obligations to provide Oak Wilt Qualification, Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, and our Masters' Series trainings, plus an ever-growing Tree Conference and Tree Climbing Championship.

As I'm winding down my time on the board, I challenge all of our members to consider how they can help the chapter. Whether serving on the board, being part of a committee, or just attending events, there is a way for every member to help our chapter be the best it can be.

See you in the trees,

Rebecca



## In the Shade

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Late Summer 2023

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He who marvels at the beauty of the world in summer will find equal cause for wonder and admiration in winter."

— John Burroughs





Texas Chapter  
International Society  
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Are you a Chapter member? If not, go to [www.isatexas.com](http://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

## Certification Exams

September 1, 2023 —  
Austin, TX

September 20, 2023 —  
Waco, TX

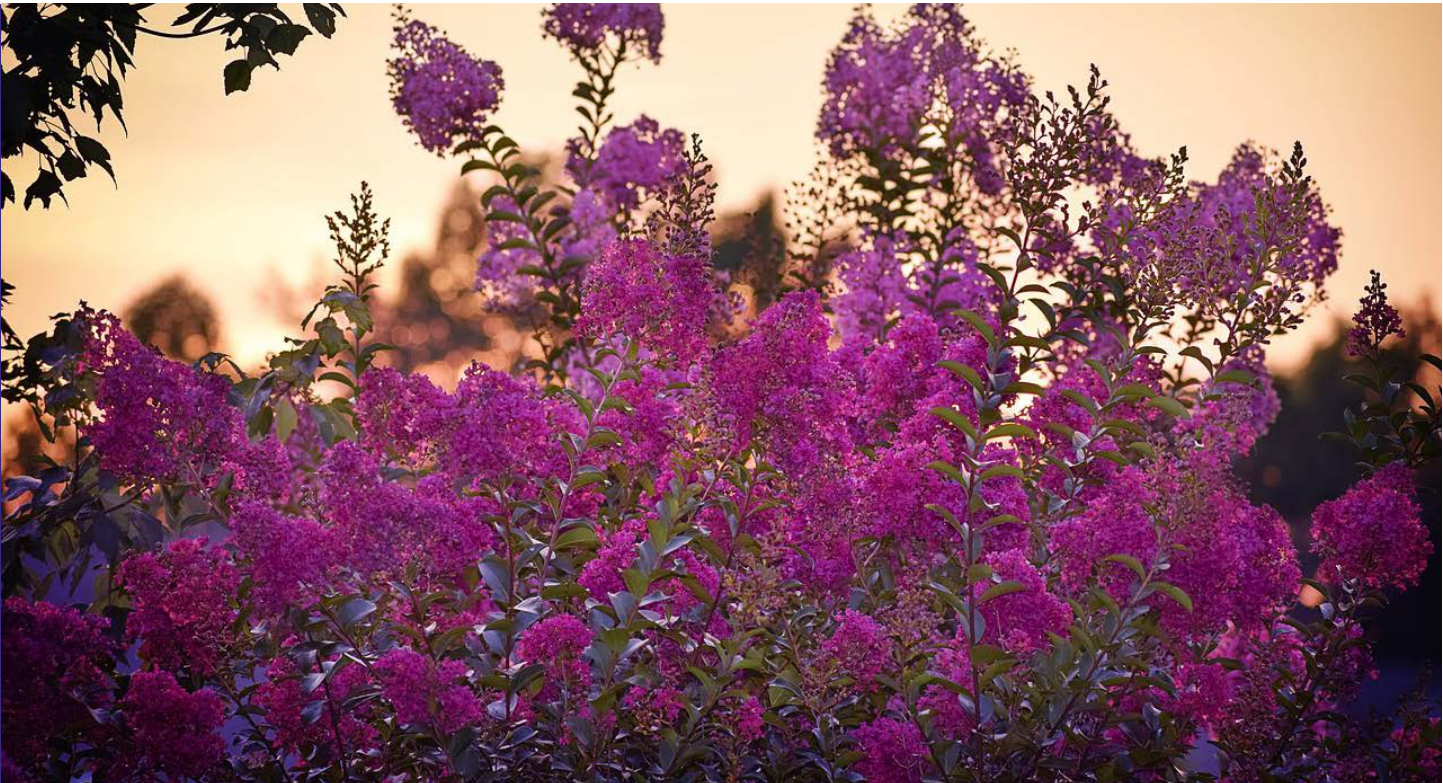
November 17, 2023 —  
Fort Worth, TX

More info at [ISATexas.com](http://ISATexas.com)



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On the Cover

Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) blooms glow in the sunset.

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 43rd Annual Texas Tree Conference—’Where Trees Come To Talk” on page 14. Also, check out the recap and highlights from the “Texas Tree Climbing Championships” in Austin on page 8. 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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## New Members

Adan Sanchez ..... Austin TX  
 Mark Baker ..... Pflugerville TX  
 Courtney Blashka ..... Houston TX  
 Robert Ebbecke..... Pasadena TX  
 Caridad Gonzalez ..... Waco TX  
 Michial Green ..... Fort Worth TX  
 Jason Ibrahim ..... Mansfield TX  
 Robert Killian ..... The Woodlands TX  
 Sarah Kim ..... Austin TX  
 Francine Kruger..... Austin TX  
 Yessica Labay ..... Floresville TX  
 Jennifer Loa ..... Austin TX  
 Trey Marrero ..... Conroe TX  
 Sawyer McGale ..... Austin TX  
 Vincente Navarro..... Wylie TX  
 Kristopher Negley..... San Antonio TX  
 Matthew Ramos..... San Antonio TX  
 Daniel Ray ..... Livermore CA  
 Jonathan Sayen..... Grapevine TX  
 Cody Seager ..... San Antonio TX  
 Lucko Self ..... Clyde TX  
 Matthew Stults ..... San Antonio TX  
 Rafael Trujillo ..... Austin TX  
 Jacob Turner ..... Richmond TX  
 Brandon Vollmar..... Fredericksburg TX  
 Gregory Works ..... San Antonio TX  
 Ruby Zavala ..... San Antonio TX

## Newly Certified Members

CA ..... Kelsey Baker..... Haslet TX  
 CA ..... Andrew Breitbarth..... Temple TX  
 CA\_Utility ... Kyle Dittfurth..... Livingston TX  
 CA ..... Nathan Guy ..... Austin TX  
 CA ..... Jeffrey Hempel ..... Round Rock TX  
 BCMA..... Matthew Latham .... Houston TX  
 CA ..... Mac Martin..... College Station TX  
 CA\_Utility ... Seth Pair ..... Amarillo TX  
 CA ..... Blayne Parish ..... Burnet TX  
 CA ..... Justin Rodriguez..... Lubbock TX  
 CA ..... Matthew Sanders..... Round Rock TX  
 CA ..... Jonathan Sayen..... Grapevine TX  
 CA\_Utility ... Miguel Teveni ..... San Antonio TX  
 CA ..... Jacob Turner..... Richmond TX  
 CA ..... Kai Wester..... Dripping Springs TX



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# 2023 Texas Tree Climbing Competition



2023 marks 40 years since the Texas Chapter hosted its first ‘Jamboree’! This year’s competition was held at Richard Moya Park in Austin, Texas on May 18th, 19th & 20th. Thursday’s bi-lingual pre-competition workshop consisted of practical knowledge associated with everyday tree work, designed to help assist climbers with understanding of SRS & MRS systems, practical aerial rescue approaches and discussed rigging techniques. The workshop, taught by Mark Chisholm and Erick Palacios with assistance from Abram Zies, Jimmy Prichard and Eric Maldonado, allowed climbers to get face-to-face with the instructors and demo different ideas and strategies, making new and old techniques become realized rather than the standard lecture-style class setting and proved to be a great networking opportunity for the climbing community.

The preliminary events, held on Friday, went off without a hitch or hiccup and all of the hard work



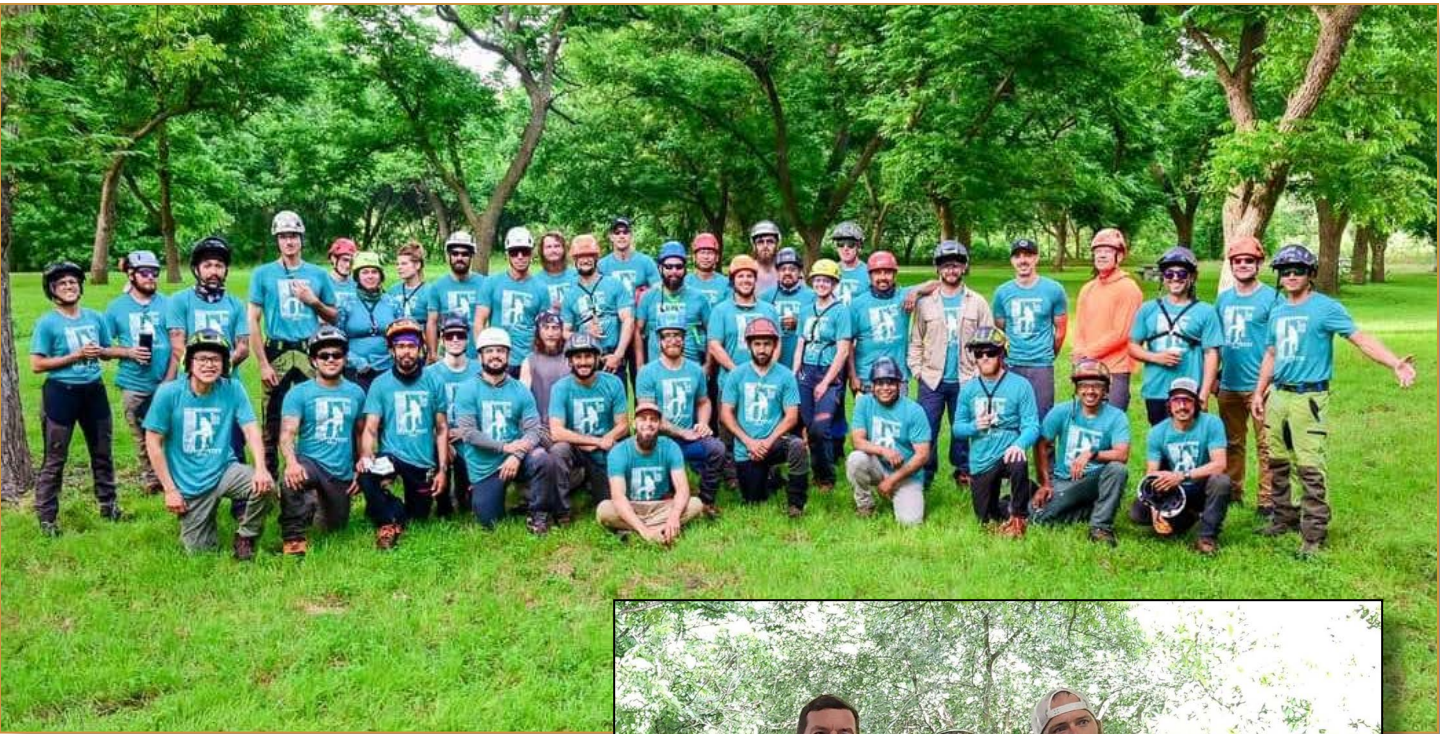
**Above:** The preliminary events, held on Friday, went off without a hitch or hiccup and all of the hard work led by so many new and repeat volunteers really showed by how smoothly the day went.

**Above Right:** Photo of out of state, guest, competitor and previous ITCC champion, James Earhart at the work climb preliminary event, taken by Blake Hampton.

led by so many new and repeat volunteers was a reflected by how smoothly the day went. A lot of new faces showed up to volunteer and help in any way they could, and it really proved to be an exciting look at the future of the industry in Texas. At the end of the day, the climbers that continued onto the master’s challenge were: James Earhart, Keith Cooper, Jimmy Prichard, Andrew Machuca, Dustin Goodman, Star Quintero, Candace Matthews and Savanna Williams.

Saturday’s Master’s Challenge, just like the days prior, went on without concern thanks to the incredible roster of volunteers. Star Quintero and Dustin Goodman took home the first place wins and moving on to represent Texas at the International Tree Climbing Competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico August 11th through 13th, 2023.

Check back via Facebook or ISA Texas website for more info on the 2024 Texas Tree Climbing Championship!



**Above:** All climbers before prelims began. Photo credit: outstanding volunteer of the year Blake Hampton.

**Right:** Male champions from left to right: Jimmy Prichard (Third Place), Keith Cooper (Second Place) and Dustin Goodman (First Place) with daughter Nina

Photo credit: Megan Wood



**Left:** Female champions from left to right: Candace Matthews (Third Place), Star Quintero (First Place) and Savanna Williams (Second Place)

Photo credit: Megan Wood



2023 Texas Tree Climbing Championship Sponsors

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# Member Spotlight ...

## Casey Hildebrandt

**You’ve been around tree care for a long time, but your degree is in mechanical engineering. What inspired you to change paths to start a business and make it a career?**

In 1977 my dad, Rick Hildebrandt, started a thirty seven year career with Asplundh. My two younger brothers and I spent many, many weekends throughout our childhood doing tree work to earn extra money with our dad. He often joked that he wanted to work our butts off while we were young to teach us the value of a college education. While I was finishing up my degree at Texas Tech I had a family friend tell me a joke at church one morning. He asked if I knew what an engineer uses for birth control?....Personality. This friend was an engineer type so the joke was all in good fun and not meant to be rude or offensive. However, it did get me thinking that spending the next thirty years of my life in an office working with a bunch of other engineers didn’t seem very exciting. I always knew I wanted to start my own company but wasn’t sure what exactly. I played around with a couple of ideas after college and ultimately came back to trees. I think once a person gets sawdust in their blood it’s hard to get it out. Hence, Hildebrandt Tree Tech was founded in 2010.

**How has being a Certified Arborist and a member of Texas Chapter ISA made a difference for you?**

I once heard someone say that five years from now you will be exactly the same person you are today except for the books you read and the people you meet. I have always placed a high value in my life on gaining knowledge and learning from others. In the tree industry one of our absolute best resources for growing as a professional is through our local ISA chapter. I joined the Texas chapter when I started Hildebrandt Tree Tech and began attending as many conferences and classes as I could. The networking and knowledge gained by being part of this group has been a huge contributing factor to our growth over the years.

**Hildebrandt Tree Tech is built on great principles; one of which is the fantastic team. Tell us the best part of working with family.**

The best part of Hildebrandt Tree Tech is our people, hands down. Without good people a company is nothing.

My wife, Samye, has supported me and worked with HTT throughout the years at different times in various capacities. Without her, HTT would not exist. She believed in me and for the first few years we lived primarily on her income (from her job as a speech pathologist) so we could get HTT off the ground. I have also had the blessing of working with my brother Kelly Hildebrandt as part of the HTT team since 2012. Kelly spent his college days playing football for Mike Leach at Texas Tech and there’s really not anything he can’t do when it comes to our industry from crane removals to sales. In 2014, our dad Rick retired from Asplundh and joined the HTT team working in sales. His wisdom and life experience is priceless. Our first full time office person is my wife’s aunt, Edie Tunstall. Edie has been with us since 2015. Although most of our 35 plus team members are not blood related, they are all part of the Hildebrandt Tree Tech family and a vital part of what we do everyday.

**What is one thing that makes tree care in Lubbock unique that you’d like to share with other people around Texas?**

Trees are hard to come by in West Texas and because of that people place a lot of value in taking good care of them. Although many of our trees are vertically challenged due to crazy winds and harsh environmental conditions, Lubbock has a very healthy urban forest. Many of our West Texas communities are spread out so it’s not uncommon for us to have crews traveling 90 plus miles to serve customers weekly. Another somewhat unique aspect of tree care in West Texas is that trees really aren’t supposed to grow here. The South Plains was grassland. So most trees growing here are under a fair amount of stress all the time and that tends to lead to more insect and stress-related disease problems than seen in other parts of the state.



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# Register Now!

While the sun bears down on us and our daily activities, be mindful that the cool, air-conditioned sanctuary of the Waco Convention Center is just a few short weeks away. Registration for the 2023 Texas Tree Conference is open and waiting for you at <https://isatexas.com/2023-texas-tree-conference/>

## Some highlights Include:

- We have another lineup of veteran and also new sought-after speakers committed to our Conference general sessions. Also, note the diverse Workshop training sessions offered on Wednesday e.g. TRAQ renewal course and a Certified Arborist exam, allowing you to update your training and credentials while obtaining Continuing Education Units (CEU's)
- Further, as a follow-up to the 2022 success, we are again offering an entire track in Spanish!
- We are working on some new twists for the Trade Show floor to supplement the extensive group of vendor displays
- The Arborists Social will return to the Waco Suspension Bridge park on Wednesday evening
- Breakfast served on Thursday and Friday with our exhibitors
- Awards luncheon will feature a nod to the 30th anniversary of the Certified Arborist credential with some of the original TX CA's in attendance

Your ISA Texas Planning Committee hopes to see you at this year's event!



**Top:** Register for the conference.

**Middle:** Participate in Tree Academy workshops.

**Bottom:** Learn and gain CEU's at an educational session.

Tree photo by Beth Macdonald on Unsplash



# Northside Houston Tx

## Extreme Drought

### 1.5" rain in 78 days

### (5/25-8/10/2022)

## Only Need Water Once

## 2.5" Sweetgum

## 24" Rootball

## 48" TreeDiaper® treemat

### Soil moisture stabilized at 40%+ for 2+ mo

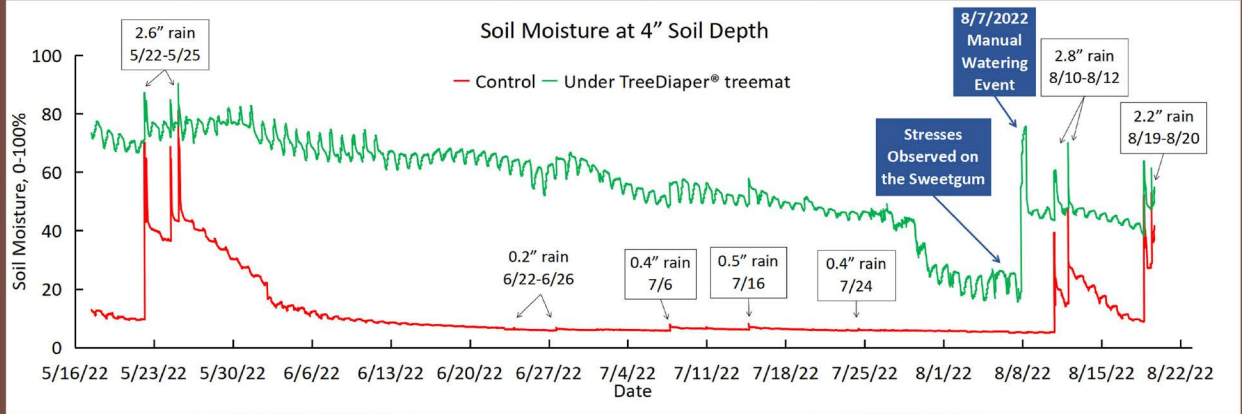
## Control

## Crape Myrtle

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# Late Summer 2023 Events Update

ISA Texas has hosted/assisted with over 20 events in the first half of 2023. Fall is conference season. The 2023 Texas Tree Conference registration is open! We can't wait for you to join us at the Waco Convention Center from September 20-22 for all the exciting speakers, networking, and activities planned.

- Three specialized Academies (TDA, Diversity in Texas Tree Communities, and ISA Utility Specialist Certification Study Session)
- Certification exams (TRAQ renewal and CA exam).
  - Nationally renowned speakers in Urban Forestry, Utility, Commercial and Spanish Language Tracks.
  - Credential holders can earn up to 15 CEUs.
  - All-day Tree Schools (English and Spanish).
  - Networking with 1,000 other tree care professionals.

As a benefit to current Texas Chapter ISA members, use your ISA CSID number to receive a 10% discount off Academy and Conference registrations. This discount totals the cost of membership!

Planning is under way for 2024. The master's series workshop will focus on tree and plant appraisal. We will bring in 3-4 experts for an in-depth look at tree appraisal. We hope to have this event at the end of January.

We are planning to host at least 3 full TRAQ courses spread between Houston, Austin, San Antonio and the Dallas/Fort Worth area. They will be in January, April, and June (depending on instructor's schedule). In February, we assist with the North Texas Urban Forestry conference and the San Antonio Arborist Association's bilingual workshop. We hope to be able to continue the diagnosis workshop at the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station and the Texas Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification workshop in March.

The Texas Tree Climbing Championship will be held in May--usually the Friday and Saturday after Mother's Day. We have reserved May 22-23 and June 12-13 for the Texas Oak Wilt Qualification workshop. There will be a TOWQ renewal in between those dates.

Remember, current ISA Texas members are emailed the registration link to the above workshops 7-10 days before non-members. We target having the registration up 6-8 weeks prior to the event, sooner if all the planning comes together.

For more information, email: [gene@isatexas.com](mailto:gene@isatexas.com).

Date	Event	Location
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





# Austin Closer to Its Canopy Goal: 50% by 2050

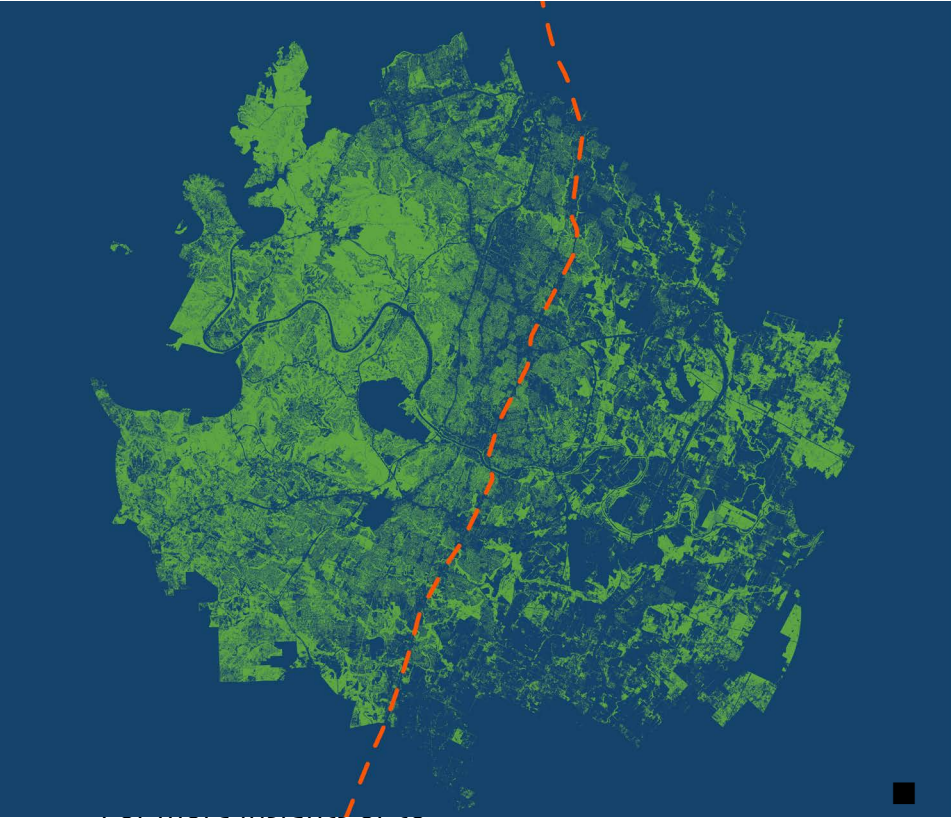
By Alan Halter

The City of Austin acquired geospatial data showing what tree canopy looked like from above in late summer of 2022. This effort, repeated ever four years, documents progresses in tree planting and tree protection.

Data were analyzed and insights can be found in this online Story Map <https://arcg.is/045LbW>

Chief among these insights? The data show 41% canopy cover citywide in 2022—up from 36% in 2018. With their Climate Equity Plan, the City of Austin aims to achieve 50% canopy cover by 2050. And with maps and

graphs, the Story Map shows how the City’s canopy goal could be achieved by examining possible planting space around Austin.



message the author, contact Alan Halter, Geospatial Analyst with the City of Austin [alan.halter@austintexas.gov](mailto:alan.halter@austintexas.gov).

## Texas Tree Critters



### Yellownecked Caterpillar (*Datana ministra*)

- Caterpillars grow up to 2 inches long and have yellow and black stripes that run the length of their bodies; they have a solid black head and a yellow collar around their necks
- Produce a large amount of frass that covers driveways, sidewalks, decks, etc. (usually noticed by their frass)
- Pest Status: Defoliators of Oaks and other hardwoods; they usually appear in early Summer ■

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## What's the Big IDEa?



### Can You Identify this Texas Tree?

If you know this tree, look for the photo on our Facebook page and correctly identify it in the comment section under the photo, using the full scientific name and one or more common names. If you don't know it, check the page for an answer in a few days. The winner gets bragging rights and the chance to submit a tree to stump fellow arborists in the next issue.

**Hint:** "Nacho Libre meets Captain Sparrow"

## Last Issue's Tree ID



Last issue's winner:  
Andrew Cooper, Sr.

Tree was: Black Hickory  
(*Carya texana*)

New challenge submitted by:  
Andrew Cooper, Sr.