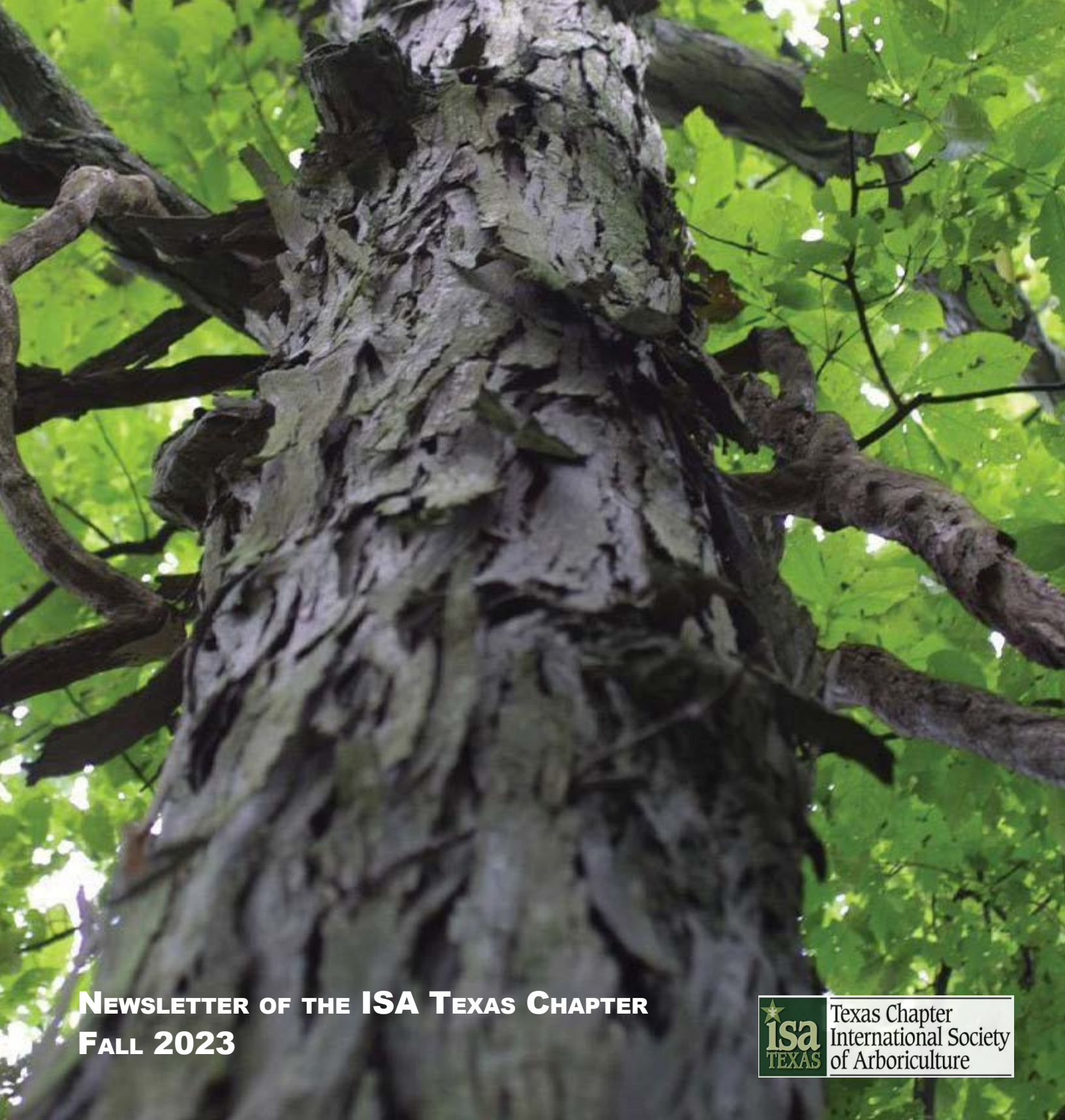


In the Shade



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
FALL 2023



Texas Chapter
International Society
of Arboriculture

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 tribute to John Giedraitis on his retirement on page 8, "Where Do You Draw the Line?" (an article about trees and powerlines) on page 14, "Watering Large Trees During Drought" on page 19, and "Where Do Community Trees Go Once They Are Removed?" on page 10. Be sure to "leaf" through the rest of this issue for Upcoming Events and other goodies.

And, with the end of Summer and the beginning of Fall, it's time for me to say farewell as the Editor (this is my last issue) and welcome in the new Editor—Dr. David Appel! I'm excited to see what he has planned for our newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue and to those out there reading it. Enjoy the cooler weather!

Sincerely,

Heather McKnight



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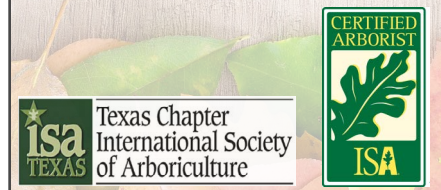
- **Publications:** In The Shade, a bi-monthly printed newsletter
- **Email Update:** TreEmail, a monthly calendar of tree events and important tree news
- **Networking and Promotional Opportunities:** Texas Tree Conference, Texas Tree Climbing Championship, Arbor Day and other events
- **Discounts:** Discounts on Texas Chapter seminars, workshops, and conferences
- **Online Learning:** Monthly/bi-monthly educational webinars created by the Chapter

Certification Exams

November 17, 2023 —

Fort Worth, TX

More info at ISATexas.com



On the Cover

The gray, peeling bark of Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)

New Members

Tyler Agee	Duncanville TX
Mary Artmire	Flint TX
Cher Baise	Arlington TX
Veeraphan Banjong	Friendswood TX
Michael Baur	Mckinney TX
Hans Bilderback	La Porte TX
John Boyd	Katy TX
Katherine Brown	Austin TX
Guadalupe Bueno	Coppell TX
Thomas Burn	College Station TX
Ruben Bustos	Dallas TX
Adam Canales	Houston TX
Douglas Carle	Arlington TX
Dorian Castro	San Antonio TX
Justin Christian	Sachse TX
Robert Compton	North Richland Hills TX
Keren Costanzo	Corpus Christi TX
Michael Easley	Crockett TX
Megan Elwood	Austin TX
Daniel Foster	Gun Barrel City TX
Zachary Foust	Little Elm TX
Deven Garrison	Arlington TX
Alexander Grubbs	San Antonio TX
Christian Harrison	Kyle TX
Nick Hempel	Houston TX
Alex Holguin	Dallas TX
Simone McCracken	Garland TX
H McMullen	Fort Worth TX
Robert McMullin	Houston TX
Douglas Miller	Mabank TX
Scott Mobley	San Antonio TX
Ferdinand Pasion	Austin TX
Molly Pikarsky	Round Rock TX
Layne Richter	Liberty Hill TX
Russell Rosser	Kingwood TX
Richard Sartori	Menifee CA
Daniel Scott	Universal City TX
David Segit	Dublin TX
Seth Shockley	New Braunfels TX
Jose Soto	Royse City TX
Brian Spear	Little Elm TX
Lanier Tyler	Dallas TX
Isaac Vigil	Harper TX
Josh Villarreal	Friendswood TX
Kyle White	Austin TX
Tracy White	Austin TX

Newly Certified Members

CA Mark Baker	Pflugerville TX
CA-U Kelsey Baker	Fort Worth TX
BCMA Pablo Camarillo Jr.	Round Rock TX
CA Tamberly Conway	Shallowater TX
CA Forest Croft	Austin TX
CA Marcos Diaz	Lubbock TX
CA-U Jacob Hurtado	Alice TX
CA Paul Kelly	Keller TX
CA Robert Killian	The Woodlands TX
CA Jennifer Loa	Austin TX
CA-U Jorge Alberto Martinez Nieto .	Houston TX
CA Justin Ory	Austin TX
CA Lauren Paustian	Austin TX
CA Russell Rosser	Kingwood TX
CA Lucko Self	Clyde TX
CA-U Lucko Self	Clyde TX



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John Giedraitis, Executive Director, Retires

John announced to the Executive Committee back in December he was planning to retire after the Tree Conference that was just held in Waco. The process of transitioning his responsibilities to Gene and Megan has been ongoing. John has been the Executive Director of ISA Texas since 2012. He has been a part of ISA Texas since he first moved to Austin to be the City Forester in the early 1980's.

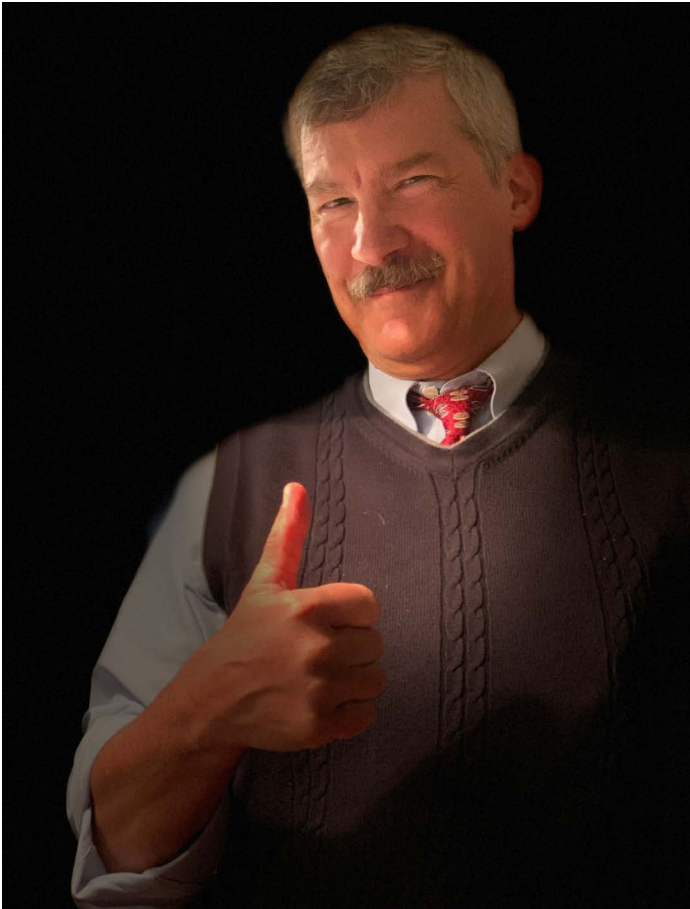
For those of you who did not make the annual business meeting, he told a story of his first experience with leadership of ISA Texas. At that time, nominations for board positions were taken from the floor (this was well before the internet and online voting). He was nominated by a long-term active member. He said he received one vote, from the person who nominated him. I guess he did not vote for himself.

Fast forward a couple of decades and he was elected president for the 2008-2009 term after having served on the board. It is a lesson in perseverance. How board nominations are conducted is not the only change that has occurred. He was an active member when membership was only a couple of hundred. Now it is almost 1,500, and it practically doubled under his directorship. We have had multiple workshops that attract more attendees than the annual conferences he first attended. He has helped to grow the Annual Texas Tree Conference into an event that attracts over a thousand attendees every year.

Probably the most lasting influence John has had on the Texas Chapter of ISA has been his guidance of the board the last 10 years or so. Because of his leadership, the board does strategic planning for the long term. Rather than being a volunteer group working on the current task (i.e. Climbing Competition or Tree Conference), there are policies and procedures in place to make sure they happen. That gives the board time to work on improving the chapter.

The thing that will probably be missed the most is his eternal optimism. He is always a great cheerleader not only for events (every conference has the best line up of speakers ever) but also for the people around him. Accolades, you are doing a great job, and other words of encouragement easily rolled off his tongue.

John, enjoy the third-third of your Life!



Thank you,
John!



Where Do Community Trees Go Once They Are Removed?

Gretchen Riley, Forest Systems Department Head, Texas A&M Forest Service

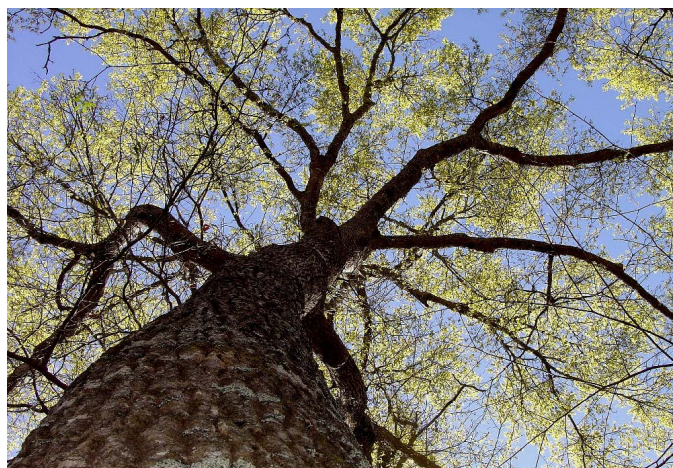
We want to find out. Texas A&M Forest Service and the USDA Forest Service are teaming up to track the flow of standing community trees to final product—and we need you!

In the traditional forest industry, we've been doing this for years. Called the Timber Product Output (TPO), estimates of uses of roundwood (logs) across the country aid stakeholders in making informed decisions about the resource. These estimates are generated from studies conducted as part of the Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program. FIA collects data on permanent plots, in perpetuity, providing insight into trends and how practices and weather affect the resource. TPO studies are based on questionnaires from a sample of primary wood-using mills.

With the advent of FIA in urban areas in 2014, the opportunity to study urban wood flows has arisen. To this end, we will collaborate with cities, utilities, commercial arborists and others to track tree felling activities, record species, size and gather various tree measurements before and after felling, including utilized sections and their final intended use. Data will be collected for 100 operations (a minimum of 100 trees) within the cities of Austin and Houston, over a two-year period.

How can you participate? Volunteer to be one of the partner operations. In most cases, we will send an agency forester to record desired data, we will just need to know when and where to show up. As a thank you, partners will receive a voucher to attend the next Texas Tree Conference.

Want more information or to sign on? Contact Gretchen at griley@tfs.tamu.edu.



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Member Spotlight

John Giedraitis

After serving as the Texas Chapter ISA Executive Director for the past eleven years, John Giedraitis has decided to retire. Many of us have known John in some capacity during his career in tree care. John began that journey in New York and it has spanned across the United States, finally bringing him to Texas in the 1980s. It was then he joined Texas Chapter ISA. He was one of the Chapter's first thirty Certified Arborists in the early 1990s and served on the Board of Directors in various roles, including President from 2008-2009. John is well known for his work with the Treaty Oak in Austin, serving as the City of Austin's first City Forester. As an organization, we were able to honor John and wish him well in retirement at the 2023 Texas Tree Conference.

A look back at John's time with the Texas Chapter ISA shows there have been many opportunities and challenges for the Chapter over the past eleven years. Some key indicators of the Chapter's progress include an increase in membership (up 91%), increase in Texas Tree Conference attendance (up 69%), an increase in email subscribers (up 229%), credential holders (BCMA, Certified Arborist, Municipal and Utility Specialist, and Tree Climber all increased), and the implementation of two Texas Chapter ISA Qualifications: Texas Oak Wilt Qualification and Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification. John writes, "It has been one of the great privileges of my life to serve as the Executive Director for these past eleven years, and I am now looking forward to the next chapter of my career." ■





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13

Where Do You Draw the Line?

By Tim Cool, Urban Forester for Texas-New Mexico Power

I’ve seen a lot of trees, covered a lot of miles but what is more important to me is the people that I have met. I’ll be the first to admit, I have nowhere near the knowledge that real tree nerds do. I have found that there is something about staring at God’s creation with someone else that can form a connection and a sense of togetherness. You know what I’m talking about if you have ever looked into a tree canopy, side by side with a customer, a customer that knew nothing about trees, one that could tell no diagnosis, one that knew of solution and yet they felt connected, they felt evoked. To us, it’s normal, our day to day; however, for at least a brief period, they were reminded of how important trees are.

While in Houston’s traffic, I found myself deep in existential rumination, and it dawned on me that humans have not changed the way we perceive or manage trees. Before you get upset, I am including all of us humans, since arborists would only make up a small city compared to the population of people.

All in all, we just don’t know about trees, some of us don’t care, and arborists don’t really get the microphone that often. We don’t think twice about cutting them down; we don’t plan around trees--but through them. We don’t notice them until they’re dead or are gone. Trees get just one special day, a year, but it’s like an hour, a half day at best. This perspective brings an almost literal meaning to “you can’t see the forest for the trees,” because most people aren’t focused on trees.

Take a look around at the innovation and technological advancement that we have available and use daily. Take a moment to compare how much more advanced that technology is from the simple concept of “planting the right tree in the right place.”

Let’s face it, the life of an average urban tree isn’t exactly luxurious. Urban trees are often placed in stripped soil, improperly planted, volcano mulched, struck with mowers, poorly pruned, or not pruned at all. Post-planting, they are either over watered or under watered. They are usually isolated and without the community in which forested trees thrive.

“

We need to draw the line and bridge the gap between people and trees.”

Fast forward, years later and the trees have proven their resilience. They have started impacting the powerlines and causing interruptions in electricity. The community becomes unsettled and untrustworthy of the local utility’s effort to keep the lights on. What they don’t know is the utility has 8 weeks of this exact scenario stacked up. Fear not, because when the utility gets the chance, they will ‘V’ out or side trim the trees. The large cuts stick out like they are painted in neon. Complaints soon follow that now question the utility’s ability to prune the trees properly. Sometimes we’re the first to ever touch a tree, making it a daunting and challenging task for the outcome to not look unsightly. We have no other choice.

I believe this lack of foresight, planning and preventative management is like a negative amortizing loan. You pay close to nothing upfront and then you get hit with a shockingly large bill at the end. In the case of trees, it can be monetarily or aesthetically. The same concept applies for any tree conflict. What people don’t realize is they may end paying for these actions or corrections to take place through taxes or utility rates due to their own poor planning.

There are more trees managed and more decisions being made about trees by non-arborists than arborists. The opposite is true about teeth or automobile maintenance. We know to brush daily, get regular teeth cleanings, change our oil, and rotate our tires. We don’t attempt to do our own root canals, and most don’t work on their vehicle, they know who to call. We call on these specialists because they save us time, money and they are experts.

What that says is arborists need to strive to shift the public perspective away from being called when there is a tree problem. As arborists, we know the cost of planting trees in the wrong place, and we need to make this more known. Much of what we do is reactive. We have seen trees fall onto infrastructure, roots severed off during construction, and cleared utility ROW’s much of which was preventable if the right tree was selected.



Left: Newly planted Live Oaks in close proximity to overhead powerlines.



Below: Mature trees trimmed by the power company to ensure reliable service.

As Texas’s metropolitan areas expand and living costs increase, there will never be a better time to get involved in your community. I encourage you to contact your county, city, and reach out to your community. I recommend going to community functions, social events, and present at events or volunteer. All of this will make you and your business more known and will result in leads regardless. For those that love to be aloft there will always be tree work but with the development and expansion we need more people striving to change the way we think about and manage trees. We need to draw the line and branch the gap between people and trees. ■

Fall 2023 Events Update

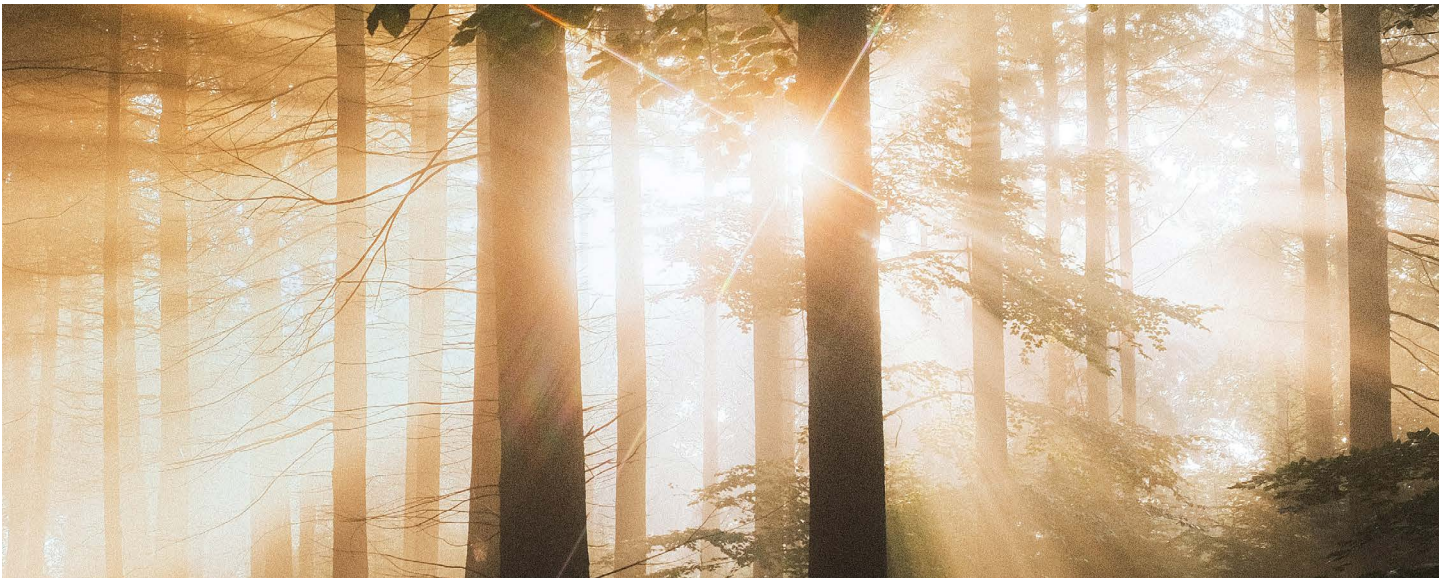
Planning is under way for 2024. The Master’s Series Workshop will focus on tree and plant appraisal. James Komen will be presenting with 2-3 other experts for an in-depth look at tree appraisal. We are planning to have this event at the end of January in San Antonio. Registration should be available around the first of November.

Next year, 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. Trinity Blacklands is planning to repeat the same bilingual workshop in the Dallas area. We hope to be able to continue the diagnosis workshop at the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station and the Texas Wild-fire 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. Our goal is always to have the registration up 6-8 weeks prior to the event, sooner if all the planning comes together. For more information email gene@isatexas.com.

Date	Event	Location
Oct. 20-22	NATCC	Washington, D.C.
Oct. 25	SAF National Convention	Sacramento, CA
Nov. 1	TRAQ Renewal Online Partnership with Southern Chapter	
Nov. 3	Texas State Arbor Day	Virtual
Nov. 10	TCI Expo	St. Louis
Nov. 15-17	Certified Arborist Prep Class	Fort Worth
Nov. 17	ISA Certified Arborist Exam	Ft. Worth
Nov. 29-30	ISAT Annual Retreat and Board Meeting	Galveston, TX
Dec. 3	ASCA Annual Conference	Renton, WA



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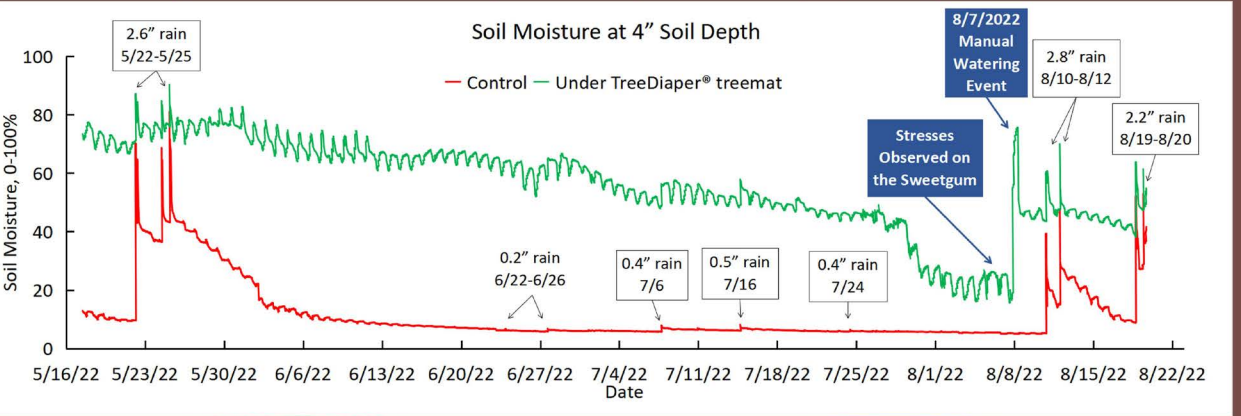
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Watering Large Trees During Drought

By Kelly Eby, Urban Forester for the City of San Marcos

I came up with this solution to help preserve large trees—similar to the “bucket method”—about 10 years ago. This method uses 16-18 barrels, but you can also use cleaned 55-gallon food grade containers (car-wash or truck dealerships may have some) or clean trash cans to help water mature trees. This is helpful in extreme drought conditions on large trees that require a deep soak, instead of spending time messing with soaker hoses. Drill 1-2 small holes in the bottom, and 4 small holes ~2” high up on the side of the barrel, equal distance around the barrels, on 4 sides around the base of the container. Angle the holes when you drill where the water shoots up in a 30-45 degree angle so as the pressure increases (fills) it reaches further away from the barrel, as pressure decreases it gets closer to the barrel.

The barrels are placed about 10’ from the tree trunk in a checkered grid pattern, ~5-6 feet apart, this is an effective way to provide a deep soak on a stressed tree. Sometimes liquid seaweed is added to the water in the barrels. This is best done on trees that have at least been mulched to help retain soil moisture for a longer period of time. This is a good method for specimen or heritage trees in non-irrigated landscape that are highly valued. I hope to check if type 1 water reuse water is an option for these deep soaks, or if there is documented species sensitivity to reuse water. Please follow your community’s water use guidelines.



Texas Tree Critters



Cottonwood Borer
(*Plectrodera scalator* Fabricius)

- Striking black and white spotted beetles grow up to 1 ¼ inches long and have long black antennae.
- Larvae tunnel under the bark and can cause girdling of the base of the tree; adults use chewing mouthparts to feed on stem and shoots.
- Pest Status: infest cottonwoods, poplars, and willows in 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: An evergreen tree with leathery leaves

Last Issue's Tree ID



Last issue's winner:
Johnny Perla

Tree was: Blackjack Oak (*Quercus marilandica*)

New challenge submitted by:
Johnny Perla