

In the Shade



**NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER
WINTER 2023**



Texas Chapter
International Society
of Arboriculture

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From the President

Happy Holidays to all Texas tree lovers! For many of us this is a special time of year and none of us should be surprised that a tree plays prominently in the supporting cast.

Our relationship with trees goes back to the dawn of our existence and there's no better place to discuss, learn, contribute, or collaborate about trees than right here ... within your Texas Chapter of our ISA. In this regard, the recent Texas Tree Conference was a monumental success and again this year notable records were set in one category or another. For example, revenue exceeded \$300k to help offset a record \$200k in expenses. Attendance for the Conference and the Academy combined exceeded 800 attendees. It was another memorable and profitable event made possible by your attendance and the hard work of over 50 volunteers.

A big tip of the Stetson hat to our Trade Show vendors for underwriting a large portion of the Conference expenses. Another first this year for the TTC was a Climbers Corner on the Trade Show floor featuring current TX climbing champion Dustin Goodman who demonstrated SRT and climbing gear configurations. New gear and advanced techniques fascinate us old-school climbers. The Trade Show was the go-to place for networking, shopping, ideas and endless educational possibilities. Our full Spanish Track increased significantly this year. We'll need larger rooms in coming years to fit all the attendees.

The entire meeting flowed seamlessly by the efforts long time members, volunteer and current Chapter VP Kirsten Schneider. Thank you Kirsten!

Our annual luncheon featured a farewell tribute to retiring, storied TX Chapter Executive Director John Giedratis. Congratulations to Arborist of the Year Keith Babberney of Austin for his years of dedication to the profession. Kudos to all the award winners for their projects and dedication in making a difference in our communities.

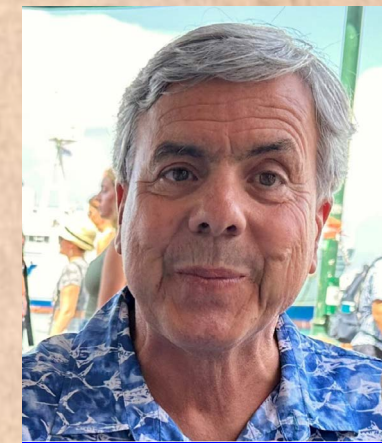
Chapter Business

The process of selecting our new Chapter Executive Director is in the capable hands of several Board Members. A Request for Quote was posted internationally with a deadline of November 27th. During the interim Gene Gehring is at the helm. To date we have 7 applicants spanning a wide range of experiences. By the time you read this it is entirely possible we will have named our new Executive Director.

As Heather McKnight of League City steps down please welcome aboard TX Chapter Newsletter Editor Dr. David Appel; Professor Emeritus of TX A&M University. We're honored that you may never officially retire and continue to further our profession.

In a few days your Chapter officers and Board meet for the annual Retreat to budget, review action plans, policy and address new business-this year at Moody Gardens in Galveston. This session lays the groundwork and direction for our Chapter.

In closing the Chapter wishes you a wonderful Holiday and a prosperous 2024. Now then, please go trim, plant or assess a tree and make your world a better place! —Gary O'Neil



In the Shade

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Editor: **David Appel**
david.appel@ag.tamu.edu

Associate Editor: **Joan Ivy**
joanivy@sbcglobal.net
512-796-4641

Advertising Inquiries: info@isatexas.com

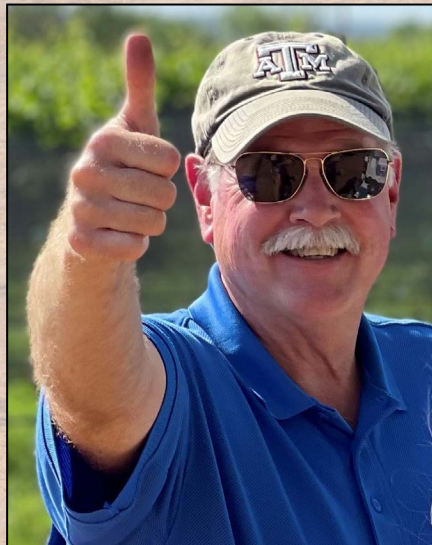
Winter 2023

Vol. 47, No. 4

“
Nothing is holier,
nothing is more
exemplary than
a beautiful,
strong tree.”

— Hermann Hesse

Editor's Note



If you are a regular reader of the Editor's Note, you will know that Heather McKnight has completed her term of service as editor of *In the Shade*. As I assume this new role, I want to thank Heather for all the hard work on behalf of ISA TX and the help she gave in helping me publish my first issue as the new editor.

Many of you are familiar with my 42-year career with Texas A&M University, but few are aware that this is my second stint in this role as editor of the newsletter. A few years after arriving in College Station in 1981, I was asked to serve as editor of *In the Shade*. How things have changed since the days of typewriters, mimeograph machines, and black and white images!

Thanks also to President Gary O'Neil for his contributions to this issue, including some much deserved kudos for another successful Texas Tree Conference in his message. Another conference related article comes from Ronny Nelson, our President Elect, about the accomplishments of our next generation of arborists and their needs. Take note of the update on the new USDA Hardiness Zone Map – there are new interactive features and important changes in the revised version. Finally, you will also find the regular features this month you are accustomed to finding in ITS.

Sincerely,

David Appel, Editor



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We've
nailed the
tree stake



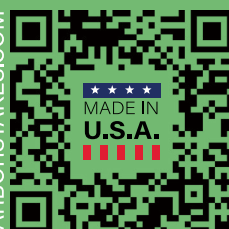
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Chapter member benefits include:

- **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

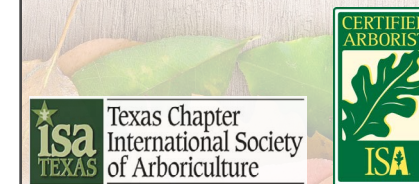
Certification Exams 2024

CERTIFIED ARBORIST PREP COURSES:

Bryan, TX — Jan. 11, 12, 25, & 26
Austin, TX — Jan. 4, 11, 18, & 25
San Antonio, TX — Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, & 16

CERTIFIED ARBORIST EXAMS:

College Station, TX — Feb. 2
Austin, TX — Feb. 8
San Antonio, TX — Feb. 21



On the Cover

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) in autumnal transition.

New Members

Terry Acosta.....San Antonio TX
 Nicholas Anderson.....Oceanside CA
 Bernardino (Nino) CervantesTomball TX
 Eric D’Antonio.....Frisco TX
 Benjamin DomerAustin TX
 Alfredo HernandezAustin TX
 Thomas Irle JrGonzales TX
 Daniel King.....Austin TX
 Bryce MontemayorSante Fe TX
 Luis MurilloKyle TX
 Autumn Natalie.....Denton TX
 Bryan RossLubbock TX
 Andre Saenz.....Spring TX
 Arturo Sanchez.....Buda TX
 Jessen StablefordJohnson City TX
 Chris SteinmannKaty TX
 Johnny Vigil.....Seguin TX
 Eric Wilder.....Austin TX
 Philip Williams.....Austin TX
 Joseph Zambo.....Austin TX
 Elizabeth Zoll.....The Colony TX



Newly Certified Members

CA Caitlyn Baldini San Marcos TX
 CA Alex Cardenas San Antonio TX
 CA Robert Compton..... North Richland Hills TX
 CA Benjamin Domer Austin TX
 CA Leonel Duran..... McAllen TX
 CA Nick Hempel..... Houston TX
 CA Matthew Hicks Deer Park TX
 CA Jason Ibrahim..... Mansfield TX
 CA Abel Marrero III..... Conroe TX
 CA Simone McCracken..... Garland TX
 CA Molly Pikarsky..... Round Rock TX
 CA Joshua Ross..... KempTX
 CA Dake Schmidt..... Midland TX
 CA Cody Segner San Antonio TX
 CA Grant Verdegaal Watauga TX
 BCMA Preston Willms..... Dallas TX

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A Bridge for the Next Generation of Arborists

Ronny Nelson, Board Certified Master Arborist and Owner of Simply Horticulture, LLC

I have been a member of the Texas ISA since 2011. Currently, I serve as the President-Elect for our chapter. Over the past 12 years, I've met so many great people who contributed to my growth as an arborist. I can remember meeting Jimmy Pritchard and Jerry Weathered at my first conference, and how welcoming they were to me. These guys are awesome and helped me do my first two crane removals.

I also reflect on a friendship with Rick Zampino, owner of Advanced Tree Care in McKinney, Texas. Some might say that we are competitors because we work in the same market. We don't think of it that way. He has his clients and I have mine.

When I first became a Certified Arborist, I wanted to get to know the most respected arborists in my region. It was important that I set goals. Rick Zampino was the highest qualified arborist that I found online who worked in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. I contacted him to set up a meeting. He was welcoming and gave me good advice for my career. He told me to set my goal to be a Board Certified Master Arborist and not to stop there.

Rick mentioned that he was a good tree doctor during our meeting. That statement has stuck in my mind for many years. At first, I admit that my young and immature mind did not understand why he would tell me this. I thought about it and asked myself, what is a good tree doctor? I also thought about what it meant to be a bad tree doctor. He meant that I needed to understand arboriculture at a higher level and make sound recommendations. I knew after our initial meeting, I wanted to be a good tree doctor too.

Over the past 6 years, I have been able to serve as the Student Committee Chairperson. We started a student mentoring program at the Texas Tree Conference. Many of our wonderful members have served as mentors. We are very grateful for your time and contributions.

This year at the Wednesday evening social event, our committee spent time with the students and introduced

them to many of you. Lily, who is an SFA student, and I were speaking, and she mentioned that they had started a climbing club. They were using their professor, Dr. Antoniazzi's climbing gear for now and were hoping to find a way to purchase their own. I told her I bet we could get them two sets of climbing gear at this social. She and I went to my ole buddy, Rick Zampino. I asked him, "Will you match me? I am planning to buy the SFA Climbing Club a set of gear. If I purchase a set, will you?" Rick shook his head and said, "yes, of course."



Ronny Nelson, Rick Zampino and Rick's daughter Niki meet to make plans for a purchase of climbing gear to present to the Stephen F. Austin State University Tree Climbing Club at the Waco Tree Conference.

The next morning, Rick and I met over at the Vermeer booth and purchased the equipment for the student climbing club. It was awesome to see Lily and Devin lit with joy. Once my climbers arrived for the Thursday evening social with the exhibitors, we all went to the climbers' corner. Dustin Goodman, the 2023 Texas Tree Climbing Champion helped us set up their new gear. He did a demonstration and a moments later, we had Lily in the air.

Rick and I received some great feedback from Dr. Antoniazzi and Dr. Williams from SFA. The students were so pumped by the new equipment and intend to participate in collegiate climbing competitions. My goal has always been to bridge the gap between generations of arborists. These students are our future membership, and we have an opportunity to help others grow in their careers. I hope you all have someone you appreciate. If so, send them a kind note and let them know how much you appreciate their friendship.



Images from the Tree Conference



Members of the Stephen F. Austin State University Tree Climbing Club training with their new gear and a message of thanks to Ronny and Rick.

Continued on page 10



Above: Images from the Tree Conference

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A comprehensive, 4-day short course designed to prepare arborists for the ISA Certified Arborist exam and offer practitioners in-depth knowledge of urban trees and their care.

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January 11-12
and 25-26, 2024

WHERE:
Bryan, Texas

ISA CEUs: 32

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A large, mature tree with thick branches and green leaves, serving as the background for the advertisement. In the foreground, there is a white box labeled "FEEDER TUBES" containing several yellow capsules, and two white bottles of "Tebuject 16" product. The text "Mauget" is visible on the box and bottles.

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Member Spotlight

Savanna Thornton

Lone Star Trees

How did you get started in tree care and come to be at Lone Star Trees?

I have been in tree care most of my life. My father founded Lone Star Trees 23 years ago, which meant working on the tree farm was my chores after school and my summer job each year.

As I got older, I kept working for the business part-time while attending college. After receiving my graduate degree, I went to work full-time for the tree farm and have never looked back. Now it is even more exciting to say that my husband and my sister both also work for the business. It's remarkable to work in this industry, and all-the-more enjoyable when working alongside family.



What about the tree care/wholesale tree grower industry excites you?

I would say there are two main things that excite me the most about being in wholesale growing and distribution. First would be the (albeit slow) return on watching your hard work grow overtime into beautiful specimens of all species and sizes. Seeing them contribute so greatly to the environment, wildlife, and overall beauty of the landscapes around us is inspiring.

Second would be customer satisfaction. It's extraordinary to see someone's home or jobsite be transformed by a tree (or many trees) that have been growing on our farm. These trees have been in our care anywhere from 5 to 23 years before they leave. Our largest tree delivered to-date was a magnificent 18" live oak – if you can even imagine the incredible impact that tree had on the landscape design. The “awe” factor and excitement from the customers never gets old!

Why do you choose to be a Texas Chapter ISA member?

I choose to be a member to stay connected with others in the green industry, as well as maintaining a sense of loyalty and dedication to our state and the improvement of its landscapes. Being a member of a group with the same goal is encouraging. I continue to learn in this industry every day and enjoy surrounding myself with

others I can learn from. Self-improvement is always the goal and continuing to collaborate with others in the industry who can share knowledge and experiences with me is a key benefit of participation with the Texas Chapter ISA.

If you were to share with a homeowner/project manager about what to look for in a well-grown tree, what would you say?

In general, I would remind consumers to study the tree's integrity. Some questions to ask when surveying for the right trees are: Does it have any signs of health issue or stress? Does the structure seem compromised or at risk of falling or breaking over time? Is it plagued by pests or disease? Does it have circling or girdling roots? Does it have any wounds or damage on the trunk? If they cannot identify any obvious issues, and the answers to these questions are all no, they are headed in the right direction.

When you're not at the tree farm, what things do you enjoy doing?

When I'm not at the tree farm I enjoy spending time with my family and my pets. We still like to be on the farm and hike, hunt, horseback ride, and enjoy the beautiful nature we have been blessed with as our surroundings.

Features of the New 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map

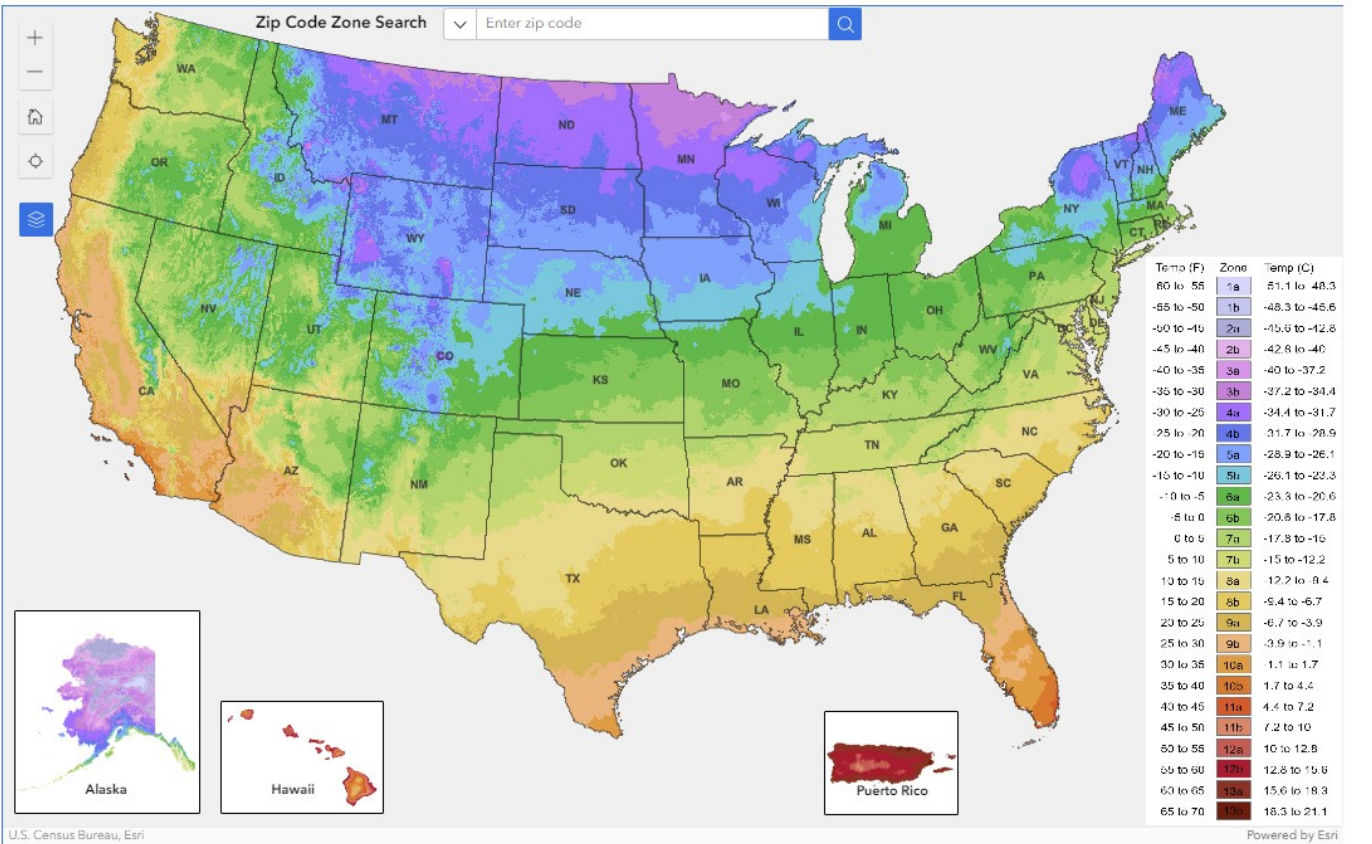
Prepared by D.N. Appel

In November, 2023 the USDA released a new version of the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone map with the first updates in 11 years. This new version is highly interactive, can be examined at much finer scales, and has new zones since the 2012 version was released. The new map was developed with input from a group of horticultural, botanical, and climatological experts and is based on new, more complete data sources and mapmaking tools.

More detailed information and instructions on how to use the new map can be found at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>.



2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map



Presidential Musings

Silver Maple — the Best Tree Eva...?

Yes, to me this scorned, lowly outcast of a tree will always be in my Top 5 of best trees. Well at least one Maple in particular.

As a child we had a silver maple growing in the backyard of our small urban lot near the shores of Lake Ontario. Our maple was growing atop our septic tank and had a good source of ‘water and nutrients’. It grew fast, even by species standards. As kiddos we climbed and played in our family tree. During autumn we piled leaves under it and jumped into them. Scared to death of that staggering 4’ leap, but giggling with joy as we popped our heads from the pile of soft leaves that broke our fall.

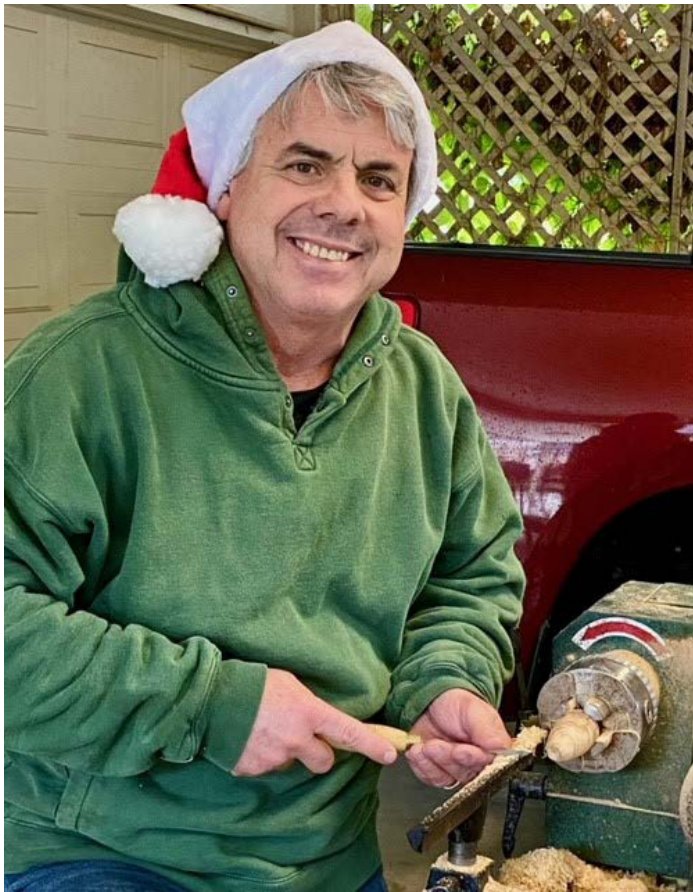
We watched with fascination as little helicopters gracefully danced a spiraling descent to earth while carrying the promise of even more maple trees. During winter time we’d climb and again jump but this time into snow piled high to absorb our impact. At time there would be 4-5 of us in the waiting our turn. Also, the maple seemed to be the go-to spot during Hide and Seek. We tried on more than one occasion to make maple syrup from the sap only to produce some horrible concoction. What a mess we made in Mom’s kitchen in those efforts.

Sadly an ice storm in 1991 inflicted severe damage to what had become a behemoth of a tree. Mom paid a local tree company to top the tree. A few years later I advised and helped her to have it removed completely.

As a young teen I recall digging up a sapling from this tree that grew in that 3-foot space between the garage and the neighbor’s chain link fence. My plans were to plant that 5-inch sapling outside my bedroom window. The neighbor saw me and suggested I plant it away from the house to give it room to grow and not interfere with our house foundation. That multi-trunk transplanted silver maple is still there over 50 years later and I’ve pruned it many times upon returning home.

Granted, we’re talking a silver maple with its weak-wooded limbs and invasive roots. True, it does not have ability to resist and compartmentalize decay as other species. It has gotten itself into enough mischief that it is banned as a street tree in many communities. It grows so fast and large that conflicts are inevitable. It is prone to cottony maple scale among other maladies. The list of undesirable traits is lengthy and you probably are wondering why is this guy waxing on about such a scorned tree. Because, this species introduced me into the horticultural world it will always be unique and special.

My neighbor could have forewarned and schooled me about this species when he saw me



transplanting a sapling, but he didn’t. Unknowingly he taught me about Right Tree, Right Place.

I could have cut this tree down rather than prune it when I returned home, but I didn’t. It taught me the concept of sustainability and reforestation. It showed me how the species uses wind to carry seeds far away. In a larger sense this Maple taught me the value and impact of trees in general. It taught me to research before planting. It taught me that topping a tree seems like a logical and cost-friendly solution that you realize later is so very costly on many levels. It showed me how trees go dormant and return with a promise each spring. I learned there is no perfect tree yet even a silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) is still commonly grown and readily sold in nurseries today. Above all else my Silver maple provided joy, created lasting memories and endless fascination. This Silver maple holds a special fondness for these reasons alone. It kindled something inside me that send me on the path I walk today.

Read next month how the Ailanthus saved the world. Just kidding!

— Gary O’Neil
Centerpoint Energy



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2024 Events Update

Below is the 2024 “Events Calendar” that was presented at the board retreat for approval. The first event of the year will be a full TRAQ course January 22-24 in the DFW area. Registration closes on December 27th.

We are planning on hosting two more full TRAQ courses April 3-5 (San Antonio/Austin) and in June (Houston). We will have two in person TRAQ renewals April 2 (San Antonio/Austin) and Waco the Wednesday before the conference. We have also partnered with the Southern Chapter to host four online renewals.

The Master’s Series Workshop will focus on tree and plant appraisal. James Komen, Marty Shaw, Scott Cullen and Mark Weber will take an in-depth look at placing a value on trees. They will guide you through the process of appraisal followed by an explanation of the different methods that can be utilized. Registration is currently open on the events page at isatexas.com. The Oak Wilt Qualification (TOWQ) dates have been set for May 22-23 (Glen Rose) and June 12-13 (Fredericksburg. The TOWQ renewal will be online May 29th. Registration will be up the first week of March.

We plan to have a Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRRQ) course and a Diagnosis workshop in March. Both are dependent on instructors. 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. The Texas Tree Climbing Championship will be held in May. Usually, the Friday and Saturday after Mother’s Day, or more information email gene@isatexas.com.

Date	Event	Location
Jan 22-24	Full TRAQ	Arlington - Set up 9 registered
Jan 31 - Feb 1	Master’s Series Workshop: Tree Appraisal	Koeman, Shaw, Webber, Cullen - need agnda, registration
Feb. 7	Virtual TRAQ	Partnership with the Southern Chapter
Feb. 15	North Texas Urban Forestry Conference	Hurst Convention Center
Feb. 20	Trinity Blacklands Bilingual Workshop	Dallas
Feb 21	ISA Certified Arborist Exam	San Antonio/Schertz
Feb 22	SAAA Bilingual Workshop	San Antonio/Schertz
March TBD	Women’s Climbing Workshop	Wimberly
March 11-12/TBD	TAMU Tree Diagnosis Workshop	College Station

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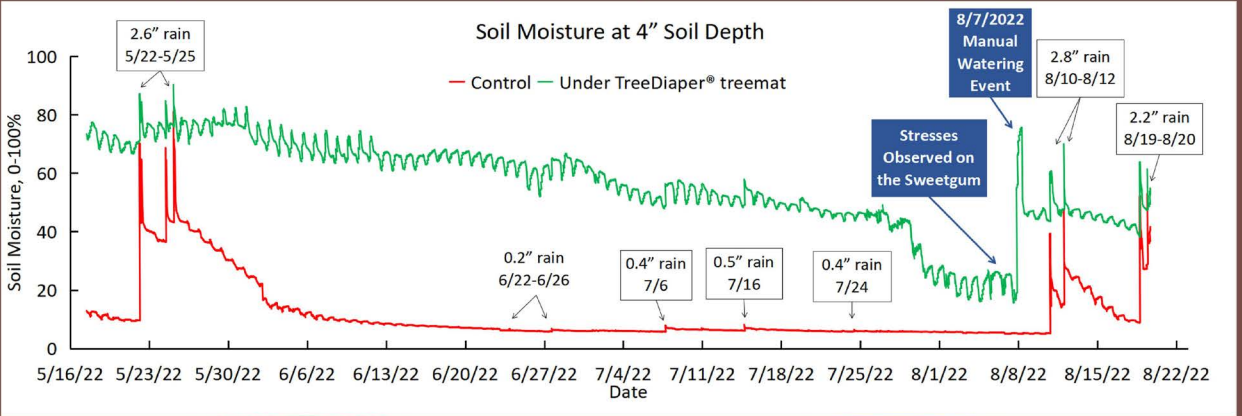
Control

Crape Myrtle

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ISAT Board of Directors



Bottom (kneeling) – left to right

Rebecca Johnson Past President, AJ Thibodeaux Treasurer, Jesse Neumann Certification Liaison, Cortney Blevins CoR, Rachel McGregor Social media, Gary O'Neil President

Top (standing) – left to Right

Garrett Ryerson, Haywood Morgan, Penny Whisenant, Meaggan Reid, Ronny Nelson President-elect, Kenney Shook, Kirsten Schneider Vice President, Jamie Thibodeaux

Texas Tree Critters



Plant parasitic green algae (*Cephaleuros virescens*) on Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

- The pathogen: an aerophilic, filamentous, terrestrial parasitic algae commonly found infecting Magnolia between the cuticle and epidermis of leaves.
- Causes brown to gray lesions on upper surface of foliage.
- Requires a film of water and occurs during warm wet weather with poor aeration in the tree crown.
- Occasionally damaging – sanitation through collecting fallen leaves, crown thinning useful in management. Chemical control available but rarely warranted. ■



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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: A shrub or small tree with light gray, flaking bark. Forms thickets on shallow soil, seldom a single tree, found mostly on flat-topped limestone hills. Also toxic to animals.

Last Issue's Tree ID



Last issue's winner:
Ronny Nelson

Tree was: Loquat leaf oak
(*Quercus rysophylla*)

New challenge submitted by:
Ronny Nelson