



Present:

Ronny Nelson, President
Kirsten Schneider, President Elect
Gary O’Neil, Past President
Kenney Shook, Vice President
AJ Thibodeaux, Treasurer
Dr. David Appel, Editor

Sarah Campbell, Credentialing
Liaison
Amy Heath, Director
Jamie Thibodeaux, Director
Bill Green, Director
Gareth Harrier, Director
Haywood Morgan, Director

Ed Dolphin, Director

Gene Gehring, Executive Director
Megan Wood, Director of Ops.

Absent:

Courtney Blevins, CC Liaison

Meaggan Reid, Director

Rachel McGregor, Director

I. Call to order

- a. President Nelson called to order the ISAT Board of Directors at 10:06 AM on March 7, 2025. A quorum was declared present.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. **G. O’Neil made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 2024 meeting as presented, A. Thibodeaux seconded and the motion passed.**

III. Executive Director Report

- a. Gehring highlighted the start of a successful year for the Chapter with a positive revenue, eleven events that ISAT had held or assisted with, and the opening of all registrations for the majority of the year’s planned events.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. **Educational events.** Shook and Gehring reviewed the 2025 Calendar of Events, noting the 2026 Masters Series (proposed topic pruning) and the opportunity to partner with ASCA to host a Trees and Plant Appraisal Qualification (TPAQ) workshop in December 2025.
- b. **Texas Tree Conference.** K. Schneider presented the progress of the committee thus far and that work has progressed well in the first two meetings.
- c. **Texas Tree Climbing Championship.** Schneider shared that the committee has narrowed a site and is completing the paperwork to finalize the event and then full planning will begin. NATCC is being held in New Braunfels, TX on March 18-21, 2025. ISAT will host a pre-workshop on 3/20, a CTC exam on 3/19, and a CTC Evaluator training on 3/18.

d. Member Services

- i. **Newsletter.** Dr. Appel presented that an article from the February 2025 issue will be printed in an upcoming issue of the Mycological Society of America’s publication.
- ii. **Digital and Social Media.** Wood reported there are regular postings to 1,800 Facebook, 503 Instagram and 59 LinkedIn followers and recent access to the Texas Tree Climbing Championship Facebook page provides an additional 928 followers.
- iii. **Membership.** J. Thibodeaux reported that there 1,276 ISAT members. She noted that there has been no push back to the \$50 flat rate membership fee. J. Thibodeaux also highlighted the results of the 2024 Member Survey.
- iv. **Outreach.** H. Morgan presented a report highlighted the work of the committee and the outreach event at Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) Expo and Institute was received well and ISAT should return in the future if able.
- v. **Credentialing.** Campbell presented that there are 1,518 Certified Arborists, 87 BCMA, 154 Utility Specialists, 78 Municipal Specialists, 28 Certified Tree Climbers, 4 Aerial Specialists, 462 TRAQ, 454 TOWQ, and 186 WRRQ. She presented the calendar of exams for 2025.

e. Research + Scholarships

- i. **TREE Fund Liaison.** A. Heath reported that the Tour des Trees will be this year in Michigan.
- ii. **Students & Scholarships.** K. Shook provided a report that student representation at the Tree Conference will be focused on in the next few months and highlighted the process. He noted that that Climbing to the Top scholarship fund’s evaluation process is almost complete.

f. **Advocacy.** A. Nelson reported that there are three bills in the current legislative session that may impact arboriculture: HB-3054, SB-1509, and HB-3978 and companion bill SB-3978.

g. **Executive**

- i. **Governance.** R. Nelson provided a report that the Executive Committee is continuing their work and will look forward to continued progress in 2025.
- ii. **Nominations & Elections.** G. O'Neil provided a report that nominations and elections will begin in April (3 director positions and 4 executive positions).
- iii. **Awards.** G. O'Neil provided a report that awards for 2025 will be open this summer.
- iv. **Treasurer.** A. Thibodeaux provided a report that as of February 28, 2025, the Chapter has \$362,479.13 in Liabilities and Equities and a net income of \$58,094.36 (unreconciled numbers).
- v. **Component Council.** R. Nelson provided a report that the Council continues to meet.

h. **Working Groups**

- i. **Bilingual.** R. Nelson presented that the committee has a line-up of free Spanish-language webinars for the year and looks forward to continued training opportunities.

V. **New Business**

a. **ISA MOUs.** A. Thibodeaux made a motion to authorize the Executive Director and current President to endorse all MOUs between ISA and ISAT, to include any changes submitted and approved the Board of Directors until signature and submission on March 31, 2025, K. Shook seconded and the motion passed.

b. **Website Maintenance Proposal.** The Board requested a period of review and opportunity to submit questions with period for response from M. Levy.

VI. **Next Board Meeting: Friday, July 18, 2025 (Waco, TX—exact location to be determined)**

VII. **Adjourn.** R. Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:25pm, A. Thibodeaux seconded and the motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Wood