



In the Shade

President's Message

The New Year has arrived! I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. I would guess we all look forward to the remaining time we have prior to the Spring onslaught to catch our breath and somewhat relax.

The ISAT Board meets in a few weeks to finalize a conference location and establish the framework for speakers. It looks like we will be having a joint conference with TUFC again this year! I had thought at one time that the majority of our membership had desired putting on an educational conference with ISAT only. I have visited with many of you and had several phone calls after last years conference indicating your desire to keep the joint conference if possible and financially practical. I must admit that I had failed in my initial opinion regarding the conference and had also neglected the synergistic

effect that is created when our two groups have put on a joint conference. There will be more details to come by the time you receive your next newsletter.

I would like to take the remainder of this space to thank Pat Wentworth and Kevin Bassett for sacrificing some of their holiday to travel to Fort Davis near El Paso to represent ISAT. The purpose of their "adventure" was to evaluate some very old Cottonwoods at The Fort Davis Historical Site. The site is under the authority of the National Park Service. Special thanks to Oscar Mestas, Urban Forester with The Texas Forest Service, El Paso, for bringing the project to the ISAT Boards attention.

Dr. William Sites, a Plant Pathologist with the U.S. Forest Service, developed the original historical tree management plan in 1987. Dr. Sites' recommendations

called for bracing, cabling, and pruning. I understand the recommendations were sound with the NAA specifications at the time, however the execution of recommended care fell short. Significant changes in specifications for hardware installation have also taken place in the last 18 years.

Pat and Kevin spent nearly 5 hours on site evaluating roughly a dozen or so 100 plus year old Cottonwoods. It appears a few of the trees pose too great a potential for failure and will need to be removed. The remainder of them will have the hands of ISAT Arborists indelibly stamped upon them. Neither Pat nor Kevin received any compensation other than reimbursement for expenses. We all look forward to their report on the Old Historic Cottonwoods.

Well, until next issue, "May The Forest Be With You"! Russ

Squirrels & Oaks *by Carl Frentress, TPWD retired*

Some say that beaver are the only animals capable of modifying their environment to suit their needs. However, ecological considerations can lead us to awareness that other animals affect their surroundings in

profound ways. Within the web of relationships in and among ecosystems, certain species are allied strongly to others. These phenomena are notable in forest ecosystems containing oaks and squirrels. Perhaps,

squirrels have much to do with the characteristics of oak-dominated forests.

Fox squirrels and gray squirrels are the two primary squirrel species

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Special points of interest:

- Board of Director Contact Information
- Committee Opportunities
- Oak is the National Tree
- Pecan Crop Update
- West Texas Job Opening

2004-2005

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Squirrels & Oaks

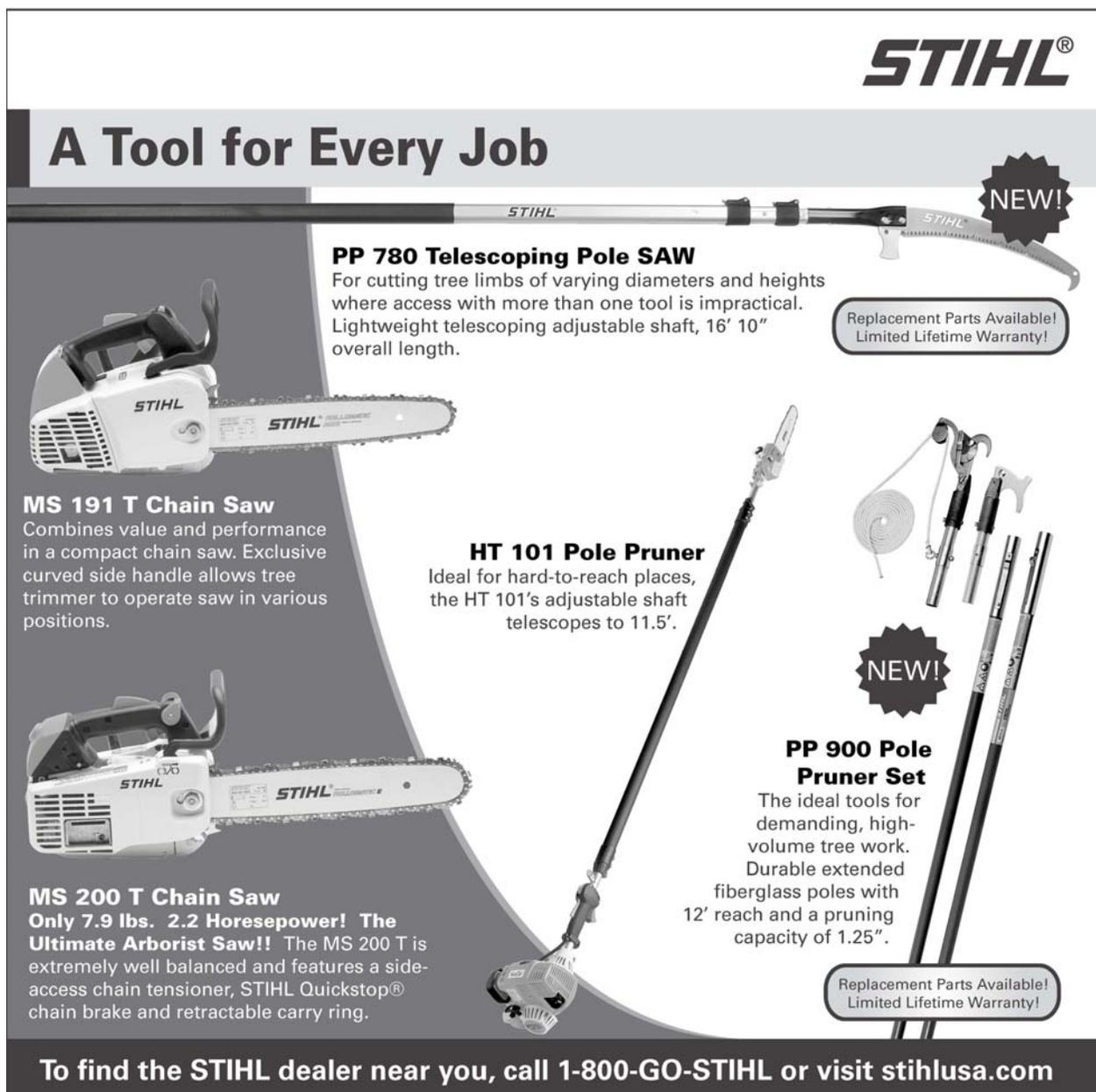
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in Texas. Gray squirrels occur only in the Post Oak Savannah and Pineywoods ecoregions in East Texas with ranges extending to the middle coast. In East Texas gray squirrels are known as “cat” squirrels. Fox squirrels are found over more of Texas. They occur in all areas of the state except the lower portion of South Texas, the Trans-Pecos, and the High Plains in the

Panhandle. Generally, fox squirrels are found in upland forests with more open structure. Gray squirrels prefer bottomland hardwoods and associated stream corridors characterized by vines and a well developed mid-story. As a rule, gray squirrels are more abundant per unit of habitat than are fox squirrels. Populations of both species exhibit a “shadow

effect” in relation to the pattern of annual acorn production. That is, when acorns are abundant in one fall, squirrels will be abundant the following year. This latter point is a signal to the strong ecological connections among squirrels and their habitats.

The capability of squirrels to influence
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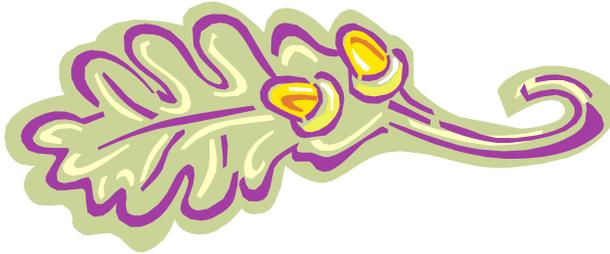
Squirrels & Oaks

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forest characteristics is related to squirrel food habits. When seed crops are abundant, squirrels feed heavily on acorns. However, all acorns are not treated equally. Within this variety of acorn handling resides the story of the influences of squirrels on oak forests.

Oak species are divided into two basic groups: 1) the white oak group, and 2) the red oak group. Some Texas examples of species in the white oak group include post oak, overcup oak, white oak, and swamp chestnut oak. Examples of the red oak group include water oak, willow oak, Shumard oak, and southern red oak. A number of botanical characteristics distinguish the two groups. For instance, the lobes of leaves of oaks in the white oak group are rounded while lobes of leaves in the red oak group are pointed or have a hair-like projection at the tip. Also, the acorns of the white oak group mature in the same growing season as flowering whereas those of the red oak group do not mature until the next growing season after flowering. Additionally, acorns from species in the white oak group begin germination soon after they fall. Red oak acorns, on the other hand, require a period of dormancy during the cold winter months before germination is possible. Nutrients in the acorns also differ. White oak acorns are lower in fat content and tannin concentrations than red oak acorns that have high amounts of lipids and tannins. These acorn characteristics are important to squirrels.

The influence squirrels have on forest composition is related to the way they use acorns. Research



reveals that squirrels handle white oak acorns differently than red oak acorns. This likely is influenced by a number of factors including the biology, chemistry, and shape of the acorns in the two respective groups. When acorns of the white oak group begin to fall, squirrels usually eat them immediately. By burying, they cache only a small portion of white oak acorns. In this behavior, they first chew away the end of the acorn containing the embryo. This prevents the acorn from germinating after it is buried. Recall that white oak acorns germinate immediately after falling. Thus, without “de-germinating” the white oak acorns, squirrels would find their cached supplies spoiled by germination and initiation of seedling growth. As noted, white oak acorns contain considerably less tannin and fats than acorns from the red oak group. Squirrels are believed to be able to detect this difference in chemical composition of acorns in the two oak groups. In contrast, acorns from the red oak are handled with more intricacy. This seems to be related to lipid and tannin content.

Acorns from the red oak groups may be the food supply *ne plus ultra* for gray squirrels especially. These squirrels exhibit more complicated behavior in dealing with red oak acorns. This may be because red oaks offer more challenges for using their acorns as food supplies. In fact, some characteristics seem to be opportunities for squirrels to benefit these oaks. The



relationship is strong between gray squirrels and oaks in the red oak group.

Generally, squirrels cache red oak acorns when they fall. In addition to contributing to future food stores, this caching also may serve to leach some of the tannins from buried acorns. This tannin reduction makes the acorns more palatable. Red oak acorns also have a period of winter dormancy allowing them to be buried without germination. However, in two circumstances, gray squirrels may feed heavily on red oak acorns as soon as they ripen. Studies show that gray squirrels distinguish between sound acorns and those that are infested with insect larvae. In a practical sense, they immediately eat insect-infested acorns, frequently consuming the larvae also. The sound acorns are reserved for storage. In the second circumstance, gray squirrels seem to optimize food availability in years of excellent production of red oak acorns. As soon as these acorns ripen, squirrels feed profusely, chewing away a portion of the basal end of these acorns. Interestingly, this end is highest in lipid content and lowest in tannin content. By contrast, the tip end containing the embryo is lowest in lipids and highest in tannins. (Tannins tend to repulse feeding because of their bad taste.) Therefore, squirrels can feed on the high-energy end of the acorns without damaging the embryos. Squirrels seem to detect the appropriate end for feeding by using the shape of the acorn. If these partially eaten acorns later are cached but not recovered by squirrels, they will germinate after dormancy. In fact, squirrels bury many of these acorns and some do germinate to produce seedlings that ultimately become trees.

Consequently, squirrels do not recover some cached red oak acorns, thus

Squirrels & Oaks

finally leading to establishment of new trees. In this way, squirrels directly affect species composition in forests. Furthermore, in their caching behavior, squirrels may carry acorns some distance from the parent tree. In effect, squirrels become acorn planters for oaks in the red oak group. Because they eat white oak acorns as soon as they fall, squirrels do not move these as far from the parent tree. Also, some rapidly germinating white oak acorns will take root before being located by squirrels. These acorns fall, germinate in place and ultimately produce trees close to the parent tree. Forest surveys correspond to this situation. In these studies, white oak seedlings and saplings are found close to the parent tree and red oak seedlings and saplings are distributed farther from the parent tree. Based on their feeding and caching behavior, squirrels offer an explanation for this different distribution of tree species.

Therefore, if gray squirrels, particularly, are modifying their environment through behavior that favors red oaks, why are red oaks the privileged group of species? Perhaps, this is because red oak acorns offer a more reliable and durable food supply. Red oak acorns are more nutritious than white oak acorns. Also, these acorns can be eaten partially then stored, or, stored whole for later retrieval in a more palatable condition. Either way, germination still is possible. They offer squirrels more flexibility in using them as food supplies. In the long run, squirrels have a better chance of prospering in forests dominated by red oaks than in white oak forests. The respective population densities of the two squirrel species reflect this. Consequently, squirrels also may be animals capable of modifying their environments to their benefits. They help perpetuate oak forests.

Conservation of forests obviously dictates management methods for squirrels. An assortment of practices can be devised to benefit squirrels. These practices should favor older trees because mast and dens required by squirrels are most abundant in forests containing older trees. Sawtimber silviculture is compatible with squirrel management. Timber harvest using small group selection or single-tree selection techniques in uneven-age forests produce timber revenue while retaining squirrel habitat. However, older den trees and some non-commercial species that produce fleshy fruit are retained to favor squirrels. This approach is known to be useful in bottomland hardwood forests preferred by gray squirrels if the mid-story is fairly thick and a substantial vine component is present.

In more open upland forests composed of both pine and hardwoods the composition of mixed species should be maintained. In forests without pines, larger den trees and mast-producing species must be present in good numbers. These types of upland forests usually will be favored more by fox squirrels.

In woodlots or younger forest stands, den sites and food supplies can be supplemented artificially. Nest boxes similar to wood duck nest boxes can be installed in trees at a height of 20 to 30 feet. These boxes are about 2 feet in height and about one foot on each side. The entrance should be cut in a side of the box as compared to the hole being in the front on a wood duck nest box. The proper entrance hole for squirrels is

about three inches in diameter. Locate the boxes such that the entrance hole easily is accessible from the tree bole or a nearby limb.

Corn is useful in supplementing food supplies. It can be provided in feeders or by planting corn patches adjacent squirrel habitat. Squirrels will feed on whole kernel corn scattered by spin feeders of the type used in deer hunting. Dry whole ears also can be used even with the shucks intact. This technique involves dumping about a bushel of ear corn onto a section of chicken wire of sufficient size to wrap the corn into a bundle. With a rope attached, this wire-wrapped bundle of corn can be hoisted into a tree. To allow access by squirrels, the bundle should be close to a horizontal limb or secured against the main tree bole. Squirrels will feed by pulling the corn through the holes in the chicken wire wrapping.

These artificial management techniques should be considered transitory because the ultimate objective is to establish a natural forest condition conducive to squirrel prosperity. As we have seen, squirrels have the capacity to steer oak forests to their particular needs. In themselves, these ecological relationships may be among the most powerful management tools.



Tree Climbing Championship Update

This year's Texas I.S.A. Tree Climbing Championship will be held in Austin, TX. There are a number of changes being considered for this year's championship. Most importantly, we are considering going to a two day format. You may recall that this was done last year, unexpectedly, as we tried to beat the bad weather that eventually came. This proved to be a better format in several ways, and it will most likely be used again this year. Contestant registration forms will be mailed to members by the end of February, and the actual format and/or other changes will be announced at that time.

This year's competition will be in Austin. Although a date has not been finalized yet, we are aiming for early June, to minimize the risk of bad weather. As is the case every year, we will limit the number of contestants, so if you wish to compete, submit your registration and payment as soon as you receive it. If you do not receive a registration form by mid-March, call Guy LeBlanc, event chairman, at 512-301-8700.

If you are interested in volunteering, and have not done so in the past, please also call the event chairman (if you have volunteered before, you will be contacted soon). The Texas Tree Climbing Championship is one of the most anticipated events that I.S.A. puts on each year, and those involved really enjoy it. We need dependable people to replace retiring volunteers for a variety of tasks both in the months before and during the competition. Join our team!

ISAT to the Rescue! *by Oscar Mestas, TFS El Paso*

I don't know how many of you have ever been to Fort Davis. If you ever get there, you need to visit the Ft. Davis National Historic Site, which is managed by the National Park Service. Near the site of the old Fort is a grove of cottonwoods, based on early photographs and written accounts these trees are at least 100 years old and possibly as old as 200 years. This grove pops up out of the middle of an open field of grass where once a natural spring flowed.

After a 3-hour drive from El Paso, I arrived at the Fort on the morning of December 30th, where I was to meet Kevin Basset (Arborological Services), Pat Wentworth (Austin Tree Specialists) and Regina Heiner (Administrative Assistant NPS). I also had the privilege of meeting Melanie Migura, a new Urban Forester for the City of Fort Worth, who came with Kevin for the learning experience. They were already busy looking at old work files and photos. The National Park Service has a long-term management plan for the grove that started in the mid 80's. Since then a couple of attempts to cable some of the trees have been tried and failed, the last time being about 8 years ago. The trees are considered historically significant to the site but are second to the structures when it comes to divvying up the budget and unfortunately, as we all know too well, you get what you pay for.

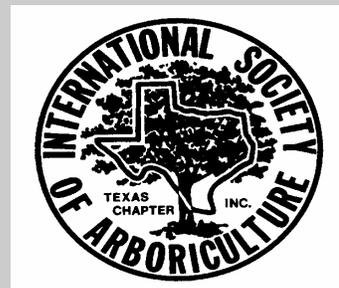
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CONSIDER A COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

The strength of the Texas Chapter of ISA depends on the willingness of members to get involved. There are many areas that a person can serve their fellow arborists. Putting on the Texas Tree Climbing Championship takes 30+ volunteers. Rene' has done a wonderful job of putting together a CD of our history, but it will take more volunteer hours to maintain the information. Putting on workshops, and getting out information about those workshops is an ongoing need.

There are 12 committees that need volunteers willing to serve others. The board forms other committees as needed and the president appoints people to serve on those committees. If you have an interest in serving in these areas, contact Russ Peters or the committee chair.

Past-President chairs the nominating committee, which puts together a slate of nominees for positions leadership of the organization. If you have an interest in serving in this area, please contact James Tuttle. Contact information is inside the front cover of this newsletter.



ISAT Volunteer Work Project

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The knowledge and expertise that spewed from Pat and Kevin's tree encyclopedia brains was remarkable and it was a pleasure to work with them. The manner in which these two evaluated the situation and went to work tagging, measuring, describing the trees,



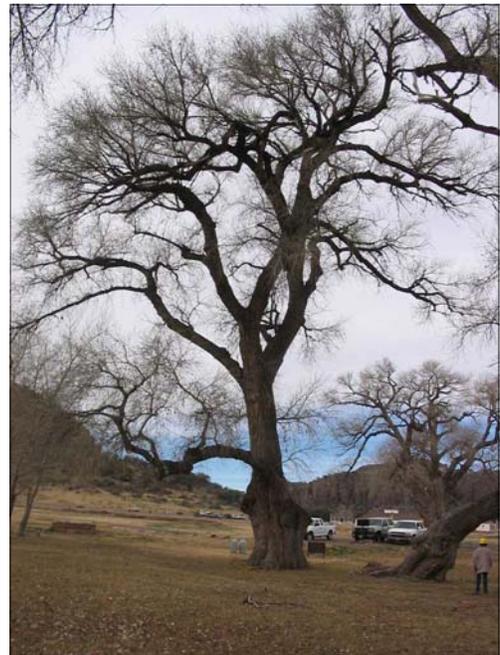
estimating heights, looking at the overall picture, and asking questions of the staff and me was amazing. Pat was very professional and took time to explain each problem to Regina in a proper manner using scientific terms, but not talking down or getting too complicated as to confuse her. It was also amusing to hear Kevin using and throwing out old lingo and terms. I think this was just a ploy for Kevin to get Pat into some friendly banter.

As a once upon a time climber, I learned that it's easy to mess things up if you don't know what you're doing. It's hard to glue that branch back on once you take it off. Another thing I learned a long time ago is not to give advice when you don't know the answer. I do know the basics and have book knowledge of cabling trees and lightning protection, but I would never attempt to tackle a job this big without help. Pat and Kevin do this every day, and what would have taken me 2-3 days of evaluating; they breezed through in 3 hours. I learned a lot that day about cabling and lightning protection and I'm sure Melanie did also.

I'm hoping that by the end of my career in Urban Forestry I can say that all the practicing arborist in West Texas have the same amount of knowledge and expertise as Kevin and Pat.



Pat, I know that would be hard to accomplish but it's a goal to shoot for! I want to thank Pat Wentworth and Kevin Basset for volunteering their time and expertise. They drove a long way for the purpose of promoting good and sound arboriculture. I also want to thank Russell Peters and the current ISAT Board for their support.



AD RATES

Full Page
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\$ 20

Stephen F. Austin Update *by Dr. Hans Williams*

It was a busy Fall Semester for the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and the ISA Student Chapter. The Student Chapter officers, April Thomas, Kelly Hinte, and Vicky Anderson did a great job in keeping the group active. Chapter highlights include a volunteer work project at the local Lamplight Community Theater. Tree limbs had grown on to the roof and we used the opportunity to practice tree climbing and pruning techniques. We also took some time to barbecue a few hamburgers. Mr. Steve Wright from ArborTech Tree Surgery, Norman, OK, gave an outstanding presentation to our Urban Forestry students. Steve is an alumnus and talked about his experience in starting and operating a tree care company. After much prodding by me, the officers, along with artistic assistance from Jessica (my lovely wife), designed a shirt for members of the Chapter. A major highlight for the Fall Semester was our field trip to Houston, TX. Ten students and I spent one day with Mr. Victor Cordova, Houston City Forester. Victor did an outstanding job showing and explaining his responsibilities as the urban forester for the fourth largest city in the U.S. The next day, we visited with Mr. Jed Day, Mr. Bryan Adkins, and Mr. Mark Noark from The Davey Tree Expert Company. The students were given a demonstration on operating a spray rig. Mark Noark presented a tree climbing workshop and all the students (not the teacher!) ascended a large water oak tree. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Victor, Jed, Bryan, and Mark for graciously spending their invaluable time with the students.

Other important news includes our Scholarship Recipients for the 2004-05 Academic Year. Mr. Jacob West received the Bartlett Foundation Scholarship and we learned this past August that he was the recipient of a Davey Tree Expert Company Scholarship. Jacob is an excellent

example for the value of these fantastic scholarships. I met Jacob several years ago when he was hanging about 60 feet up in the water oak tree in my backyard. He was (and still is) a tree climber for a local, small, tree service company in Nacogdoches. When Jacob found out I was a forestry professor, he asked me about earning a degree and improving his career opportunities in arboriculture. Jacob works almost full-time for the tree service company while taking a full course load. He is an outstanding student, a skilled tree climber and will be an excellent representative of the arboriculture profession. Ms. Kelly Hinte received the ISAT Scholarship. Kelly is an excellent student and is active in the ISA Student Chapter. The Arthur Temple College of Forestry appreciates the support in money and time that the urban forestry and arboriculture profession provide to our students.

Effective this spring, the Department of Agriculture will join the Arthur Temple College of Forestry. This merger will strengthen an already strong relationship, especially between the urban forestry program and horticulture program. Also, mark your calendar, SFASU will host the Southern Forestry Schools Conclave this spring. Conclave is a competition between the southern forestry schools on forestry technical and physical events. The dates are March 10, 11 and 12 and the event will be held in Nacogdoches. Conclave is an expensive and logistically difficult event to plan and host. If anyone is interested in being a sponsor, please contact me (936-468-2127) or Dr. Fountain (936-468-3304).

Short Bits

Oak Becomes 'National Tree'

The FY 2005 omnibus also included legislation introduced by Congressman Bob Goodlatte that officially recognizes the oak tree as "America's National Tree." The legislation amends Chapter 3, title 36 to add "the tree genus *Quercus*, commonly known as the oak tree, is the national tree." The effort got its start through a popular on-line vote organized by National Arbor Day Foundation. Arbor Day's John Rosenow sees the designation as a tool we can all use for raising awareness, calling attention to the national stature and importance of trees.

A copy of the exact language can be printed from:

<http://www.house.gov/goodlatte/pdf/gooda009.pdf>

Pecan Expert Says This Year's Crop Should Be Great

If good things come in small packages, then this year's pecan crop should be great, according to a Texas Cooperative Extension expert. Larry Stein, Extension horticulturist at Uvalde's Texas A&M Research And Extension Center, said, "Although small, the quality of this year's crop is simply outstanding; best it has been in years." The crop started out small, but "light crops always get smaller," he said. "Just recently several thousand pounds went down the Guadalupe River." Cindy Wise, executive vice president of the Texas Pecan Growers Association, said Texas was predicted to produce 50 million pounds of pecans, but due to flooding, that number was lowered to 40 million pounds. "The flooding occurred primarily around Seguin," she said. "That's where most of the loss occurred because they had pecans on the ground." For more, go to:

<http://agnews.tamu.edu/dailynews/stories/CROP/Dec1404a.htm>

Ft. Worth PACS Forestry Retreat *by Michelle Villafranca*

Budgeting constraints do not allow all employees to go to workshops. Due to this fact, the Forestry Section decided to host its first annual retreat on Wednesday, October 13 to provide all employees of the section with training and comradarie. Utilizing the talents of city staff and the Texas Forest Service, all 21 Forestry employees were afforded a day of activities customized to meet their needs. The Retreat provided a chance for the employees to exchange crucial information, work together as a team, and meet new employees.

Many activities were planned for the day. Everyone participated in a game similar to Trivial Pursuit. The questions concerned proper pruning techniques. A raffle ticket was awarded to each person who answered the questions correctly. The raffle ticket afforded a chance to win several door prizes, which included t-shirts, coffee mugs, desktop accessories, baseball caps, a gift certificate, tree ID books and other prizes related to Forestry. This game helped the staff relate technique with terminology, and provided a chance for discussion.

The retreat also provided a chance for several human resource presentations such as "Diversity Awareness" by David Ondich, and "Open Enrollment" by Debra Rose. Forestry employees were able to discuss issues and ask questions about each topic. The retreat was a great time to address everyone about important HR topics.

The day was beautiful and everyone enjoyed a hike through the woods. Courtney Blevins of the Texas Forest Service led the group on a hike from the ridge-top down to a riparian area. Along the way, he pointed out tree species, reviewed the characteristics of each, and discussed the change in composition of species based upon soil type, slope, moisture and sunlight. The

weather was nice, the birds were singing, and everyone got a little exercise on the hike!

The hike worked up a hearty appetite among the Forestry group, and luckily, Deborah Rose was well prepared. She had barbeque and all the sides ready. Terry Dodson provided the drinks from the Forestry Coke Fund. There is still debate about which was better...the BBQ or the deserts! The lunch helped refuel the group for the next activity.

After lunch, Melinda Adams marked ten trees for the group to identify correctly. A raffle ticket was awarded to each individual for every tree correctly identified. Of course, everyone did great on their tree identification, so competition for door prizes was tight. Prizes were awarded throughout the day, but the big prize was a framed tree poster signed by the artist. The employees who did the best during the competitions (pruning techniques quiz, tree ID, etc.) won more raffle tickets, which gave them a better chance to win the framed tree picture. Donald King was the envy of the group because he won the grand prize.

The retreat also included an awards/recognition ceremony. Courtney presented an award to the Forestry staff. The crews worked very hard to prepare for the official State of Texas 2004 Arbor Day event and their work paid off. The crews received a beautiful framed print with an inscribed plaque recognizing their hard work. The award now hangs at the Rolling Hills compound.

After the recognition and awards ceremony, Christie Alexander of Texas Forest Service gave a

presentation on "Oak Wilt." Christie specializes in identifying and treating Oak Wilt and thus had extensive knowledge and advice to offer.

Following the Oak Wilt presentation, Debra Rose organized a team-building exercise. Debra set up a "survival" scenario whereby the group was stranded in the wilderness, were unable to see, and had limited communication abilities. As part of the exercise, everyone had to put blindfolds over their eyes and work together as a team in order to reach a new destination. Debra and Melinda must have had some good laughs watching everyone stumbling around, running into trees, and losing each other! Even with all the confusion, Forestry employees were able to work together, communicate effectively, and "survive" the situation. What a team!

All employees agreed that the retreat was a success, enjoyable and lots of fun. **WARNING:** If you see any pictures of Forestry personnel looking silly, the pictures were probably taken at the retreat! (Forestry employees don't act silly all the time!).

**The Forestry section would like to extend special thanks to the staff of the Fort Worth Nature Center for providing the meeting space. Also the Forestry section would like to thank David Ondich for his presentation on "Diversity Awareness" and Debra Rose for "Open Enrollment" information. Thanks to Courtney Blevins (Texas Forest Service) for his presentation on "Tree Identification" and to Christie Alexander (Texas Forest Service) for her presentation on "Oak Wilt." Also, a big thanks to Melinda Adams, Deborah Rose, and Terry Dodson for planning a fun and educational Forestry Retreat!



Bud Breaking News

Survey Shows Cities Doing A Better Job Managing Trees

More Oregon cities are taking a proactive approach to dealing with tree issues, according to a new survey report from the ODF Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. ODF surveyed all 240 cities and found that 37% of the respondents reported having a tree planting or tree care program in their city, up from 26% in a similar 1992 survey. The survey also revealed:

- Nearly 1.5 million people, or 63% of Oregon's incorporated population, live in a city with a tree planting and care program.
- Over 62% of cities responding have a municipal tree ordinance, 38% have tree advisory committees, and 9% have community forest management plans.
- Cities reported aggregate expenditures of \$7.8 million on urban forestry activities in 2003, an increase over the \$1.2 million reported in the 1992 survey.
- Cities' top three urban forestry concerns are hazard trees (73%), root conflicts or problems (51%), and tree preservation or protection (46%).
- Primary benefits of managing trees in cities were reported as community pride, attractiveness, image (82%), enhancing community appeal to new residents, businesses, shoppers (71%), and shade (44%)
- Most commonly cited negative aspects of city trees were hazard trees (57%) the financial cost of maintaining trees (54%) and tree/utility conflicts (54%)

The high response rate to several questions regarding hazard trees may have been influenced by the memory of the January 2004 ice and snow storms. For the last 12 years, ODF has been assisting Oregon communities develop urban forestry programs. A copy of the full report is available on

the web at:

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/URBAN_FORESTS/docs/04SurveyRptfinal.pdf

American Public Works Association Accreditation and Tree Inventories

Attention Public Works Directors and staff! What do Bellendorf, IA, Chandler, AZ, Berkeley, CA, and Eugene, OR, have in common?

These cities, and many more nationwide, all have (or are pursuing) **comprehensive tree inventories** as part of the process of becoming accredited through the American Public Works

Association (APWA). The purpose of the accreditation program is to "provide a means of formally verifying and recognizing public works agencies for compliance with the recommended practices set forth in the *Public Works Management Practices Manual*." The objectives of this voluntary, self-motivated accreditation program include (1) offering a voluntary evaluation and education program rather than government regulated activity, (2) recognize good performance and provide motivation to maintain and improve performance, and (3) instill pride among agency staff, elected officials, and the local community. Accreditation is based on a self-assessment process, which includes having a public tree inventory. This is one way to make inventorying the trees in your community part of a larger Vision or Goal, rather than an end in itself. Visit the APWA website at:

www.apwa.net/About/Acceditation/ for more information. Here you will also find the list of accredited agencies with contact information for each, so you can contact real people and get the low-down on how to make this program work for your community.

News & Research

[Congress Denies H-2B Employers Needed Relief](#)

The American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA) expressed the growing frustration of the green industry with Congress' inability to increase the H-2B temporary guest worker program cap. The H-2B program annually grants 66,000 work visas for employers demonstrating a seasonal need for foreign workers. In March of 2004, the cap was reached unexpectedly early, leaving many industries without access to workers needed to keep their businesses competitive.

Senate and House Republicans failed to include a bipartisan amendment to fix the problem from the omnibus spending bill passed during the recent "lame duck" session of Congress. Lawmakers did vote to provide the high tech industry with a 20,000 worker cap increase, disguised as a student exemption, under a different program. However, H-2B employers and the multi-sector Essential Worker Immigration Coalition were unable to overcome the major challenges to a bipartisan compromise amendment that would have brought much needed relief to the service industry:

- lack of support from key Republicans who made final decisions on the spending bills;
- the opposition of the anti-immigrant and "restrictionist" conservatives in Congress and vocal but misinformed constituents; and, the erroneous perception that H-2B guest workers take jobs from American workers.

Job Opening

Job Title: Executive Director, Trans-Pecos Water Trust

Location: Presidio or Brewster County, Texas

Salary Range: \$ 30,000 to \$ 50,000 depending on qualifications.

Background: The Trans-Pecos Water Trust is a newly created not-for-profit organization with the purpose of restoring and protecting in stream environmental flows as well as riparian habitat along the Rio Grande and its tributaries, from Fort Quitman, Texas to Amistad reservoir. The Trust will use voluntary mechanisms—including donation, lease or purchase from willing sellers—to add in stream use to existing water rights or convert those rights to in stream use, as allowed by Texas law and for the benefit of fish, wildlife and river recreation. The Trust's guiding principles include

respect for private property rights, recognition of landowner stewardship and promotion of the natural and cultural heritage and economic value associated with the Rio Grande and its tributaries in Far West Texas.

Duties: The Executive Director of the Trust will be responsible for all operations of the organization, under the supervision and direction of the Board of Directors. Duties will include contacting and negotiating with owners of existing water rights; working with farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders along the Rio Grande and its Texas tributaries to identify and help meet their needs for improved rangeland and watershed health, such as

control of invasive/exotic species and riparian restoration; informing the public and decision-makers about the purpose and operations of the Trust; raising funds for continued operation of the Trust; and managing the budget and administrative affairs of the organization.

Qualifications: The Trust is looking for an Executive Director that meets

Continued on page 12

"...groups of well-grown trees, clustering among the busy streets and houses of a thriving city, have a very quaint appearance: seeming to bring about a kind of compromise between town and country; as if each had met the other half-way, and shaken hands upon it..."

— Charles Dickens

2005 SAF National Convention



2005 Call for Presentations and Posters - Online Submission

<https://safnet.emeetingsonline.com/emeetings/ctbpaperlogin.asp?mmnno=102&paperupload=Y>

[Call for Presentations Letter](#)

Presentations and Posters for the SAF 2005 National Convention **must be submitted online by January 12, 2005.**

The process is much simpler this year.

- Logon with your email address,
- Complete your profile information,
- Enter the names and emails of any additional authors,
- Enter your presentation or poster title and short description for convention printed information,
- Write the format of your presentation (seminar, roundtable, poster, etc.) in the comments box and
- The amount of time you are requesting in 30-minute increments,
- Attach a pdf file of your paper or poster abstract, and
- Email your co-authors to let them know their names have been submitted.

Use the Help button on the abstract submission website to get step-by-step instructions.

See the Call for Presentations and Posters for additional details about the tracks and formats.

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Job Opening, continued

Continued from page 11

the following minimum and desired qualifications:

Minimum Qualifications: Clear understanding of the farming, ranching and business community in Far West Texas; Clear understanding of general principles of water management in Texas and in the Rio Grande basin; Demonstrated ability to develop and implement work plans in an efficient and cost-effective manner; Demonstrated ability to work independently, exercise sound judgment in complex situations and manage a budget. Demonstrated ability to design, implement and direct multiple complex projects, set deadlines and ensure program accountability and legal compliance.

Preferred Qualifications: Bachelor's or masters degree in natural resource management or related area and 3 to 5 years related experience or equivalent combination. Expertise in river restoration, riparian habitat protection and restoration and/or land

stewardship; Advanced communication and presentation skills; ability to persuasively convey the mission of the Trust to and solicit program support from diverse groups including landowners, conservation partners, academic leaders, government officials, donors, board members and the general public; Experience with real property transactions; and Demonstrated ability to raise funds from foundations and/or individuals and engage in long-term strategic planning.

Applicants should send resumes to:

Michael Davidson
PO Box 569
Terlingua, Texas 79852
Or mike@blueskybigbend.com
Resumes should be submitted by February 15, 2005.

