



# TREE TOPICS

A Newsletter From Your Friends At Arborological Services, Inc.

Vol. 10 • Issue 2

DALLAS 972-442-1524 • FT. WORTH 817-849-1160 • TOLL FREE • 866-55 ARBOR • www.arborological.com

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## COMPANY NEWS

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this time of relative economic downturn, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued recognition of the value of dollars spent on quality tree care and remind you of Arborological Services' ongoing efforts to provide you with the best tree care service for your dollar.

When this company was founded over twenty years ago, we committed to bring two commodities to the marketplace—quality tree care and service. We strive to continue that tradition today. For our many clients (and their trees) that we have had the privilege of knowing for over two decades, we say, "Thank You!!" Thank you for taking the time to learn about our company's commitment to you by providing the best trained and experienced production personnel in our service area. And thank you *from your trees!* --for having established an on-going professional relationship with one of our six ISA Certified Arborists. They have been there to answer that quick telephone call regarding those pesky webworms, to address serious tree fungal or disease issues, or to assist you following a thunderstorm or winter ice storm tree emergency.

For the benefit of our newer client base, let me mention some of the company's management practices as they relate to a dollar value benefit for you.

- Our climbers are highly trained. It is simple. A trained tree climber who can throw a rope to a specific tree branch on the first attempt can be working in that tree in five minutes. *Value.*
- Our climbers make proper cuts with each cut. The need to make a second cut is a rare thing. *Value.*
- We purchase, operate, and maintain the proper equipment to efficiently execute the work we sell. *Value.*
- We offer **free** consultations by knowledgeable Certified Arborists, degreed Plant Pathologists, degreed Horticulturists,

or degreed Foresters to existing clientele for one to two hours annually (an \$80.00 to \$160.00 value). This encourages proper care at no additional cost. *Value.*

- We utilize cutting edge research to custom blend numerous materials with our fertilizers, which greatly benefit the soil as well as the tree. Although the cost can be higher than mere fertilizer, the results are substantially greater. *Value.*
- We can remove tree limbs that are dead or dying, and we can tell you what insect, fungal or cultural practices need addressing to prevent further damage. *Value.*
- We have no commission sales because commission sales can generate services that may not be necessary. We recommend what is necessary for good tree health. *Value.*
- We have an employee available to take after-hour and weekend emergency calls should you have a tree related emergency. *Value.*

The list goes on—and it includes the value-oriented actions that begin when the office answers your telephone call or responds to your e-mail. Arborological Services is all about dollar value for the client.

A prospective client recently pointed to his neighbor and noted that the neighbor's tree company was cheaper - expecting a response. My reply was, "Judging by the look of those trees, the angles of their cuts, and the permanent damage that has been done, they should be a great deal cheaper!"

Thanks to all of our clients for loving your trees and for knowing the difference between cost and value. We are very appreciative of the privilege to continue to be the "Tree Care Experts" your trees **deserve!**

*Steve Houser — President*

## International Tree Climbing Championship

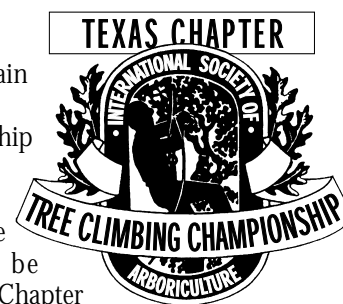
The State of Texas was well represented at this year's International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC). Nicolas Martinez, Arborological Services Crew Foreman and the reigning Texas Champion, competed with 38 other Chapter Champions from around the world. Kevin Bassett, Arborological Services Certified Arborist, served as Head Judge for the Footlock Event for the fourth consecutive year. The competition was held in wonderful Montreal, Canada on August 3rd and 4th.

Nicolas has represented Texas tree climbers three times at the international level with his best finishing coming in 1996 at Cleveland, where he finished third in the Throwline Event. Although Nicolas did not place in this year's International Championship, he is already preparing to defend his state title so

he can represent Texas once again at the 2004 ITCC in Pittsburgh.

The 2004 Texas Championship will be in Fort Worth's Trinity Park, an excellent site for the competition. Stay tuned for the dates, which we expect to be announced this fall at the Texas Chapter

I.S.A. Annual Conference. As always, there will be many competition events for climber's and the opportunity to watch the best tree climbers in Texas compete for the "Houser Cup", named for our own company President, Steve Houser by the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.



## YOUR STAFF AT ARBORIOLOGICAL SERVICES:

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## COMPANY NEWS

### A True Friend to Many of Our Clients and Our Staff

It is with great regret, but best wishes that we announce the retirement of our friend and loyal employee, Mr. Rosalindo Carlos. Rosa, as known by most of our clients, joined our company over 17-years ago and after only five years of experience became a State Champion Tree Climber. He won the State Championship an unprecedented five times, and placed 5th in the International Competition two different years. He is well known by the industry as being among the top tree climbers in the business and has trained many of our company's tree climbers. Rosa earned the position of Production Manager and was responsible for the oversight of production for over two years. He has also provided estimates for many of our clients and was highly respected for his knowledge of the industry. All those who worked with him will sorely miss his many talents and shining attitude. We wish him the best that life can provide, and thank him for the nearly two decades of loyal service to our clients.

## CITY OF DALLAS Revises Tree Preservation Ordinance

Earlier this year the Dallas City Council approved changes to Dallas' nine year-old Tree Preservation Ordinance. The revisions are the first since the original code was enacted in 1994. They focused, for the most part, on addressing the number of tree preservation related issues that have arisen in the process of enforcing the original ordinance.

As a traditional homeowner with a house on a residentially zoned lot two acres or less, the regulations are basically unchanged and your lot is exempt. However, do remember that trees planted in easements and parkways, even if you planted them there yourself, are technically property of the city. Should you need to remove a tree from the parkway or an easement, contact your Dallas City Arborist. If your lot is greater than two acres, an approved tree removal permit is required to remove a protected tree. Should you have a protected tree requiring removal, your Arboriological Services Arborist can assist you through the process.

The law has changed in how it addresses vacant lots and "tear-down" lots in residential neighborhoods. These changes were made to help you protect the integrity of your neighborhood. In areas throughout Dallas, older homes with mature established trees are often being demolished to build larger homes. To protect the existing trees, once the house is removed, most species of trees (8" caliper or greater) on the property become "protected". The contractor must follow specific rules and regulations regarding their protection during construction and replace, or "mitigate" for trees if they are removed. A building permit or tree removal permit must be posted on the site and a city approved tree protection plan must be implemented before any work can begin. Failure to post a permit is a violation.

The City of Dallas, because of concerns expressed by citizens like you, now takes the importance of our urban forest much more seriously than they did in the recent past. The City Council is learning that the benefits of trees as they relate to air quality, storm water runoff, and energy consumption translate to savings in citizens' tax dollars. As part of the ordinance revision, fines for violations have increased from \$400 per occurrence to \$2,000 per occurrence.

If you are one of our Dallas clients and have further questions regarding the Tree Preservation Ordinance, do not hesitate to contact your arborist. You may also call Mike Sultan, Chief Arborist for the City of Dallas, at 214-948-4172.



## ***Ganoderma* sp., a Significant Root Pathogen**

by Kevin Bassett & Russell N. Peters

*Ganoderma lucidum*, the varnish fungus, is a pathogen that enters openings in root systems of many tree and shrub species. In our region, Red Oak, Cedar Elm, Pecan, Live Oak, Pears, and Photinia have all been reported to be species commonly infected by this fungus.

The entry points can be from any activity that damages or severs a plant's root system. The fungus lives in the soil as a saprophyte. That is to say, it can live on dead organic matter with no ill effects until it encounters live roots that have been cut.

Published literature, archaic as it may be, suggests the fungus colonizes a plant's root system slowly and may take several years, 10-20 years has been proposed, to finally kill a tree or shrub. Arborists have theorized that it might just be a natural component of many old tree species. We feel that it may be quite a bit more aggressive than first thought. Regardless of the pathogen's history, it causes significant damage to our shade trees by destroying a tree's structural root system.

Trees have two primary root systems. The structural root system is responsible for anchoring a tree to the earth. A tree's fine feeder root system is responsible for the daily demands of moisture and nutrients. Once the structural root system has been compromised, a tree's stability becomes quite a concern. Often, trees that fail during storms show evidence of colonization by *Ganoderma* sp.

The fungus will produce a fruiting structure, a fungal conk, near the base of the tree. It is a shelf like structure that varies in color from a rusty orange-red to a dark red with cream coloration almost always shiny in appearance (refer to our website for photographs). The concern is that once the fruiting structure is evident, the fungus has often destroyed a large part of the tree's ability to stay anchored to the earth, thus creating a high potential for failure and a potentially dangerous situation.

The difficulty is that above ground signs can mimic other problems. Trees infected with *Ganoderma* sp. often leaf out in the spring with significant dieback and large dead branches with no changes in the tree's environment. Tree owners will often report that the tree looked fine last fall. Even at this stage of the infection, sometimes there may be no visual evidence, a fungal conk, apparent at the base of the tree. There is also the opposite scenario in that a tree's canopy looks perfectly fine, but fruiting structures have developed. In either case, further investigation may be recommended. These recommendations should never include anything that is proposed to help or control the infection. Recommendations should be to investigate a portion of the below ground structural root system of a tree to determine the extent of structural root loss.

The sad reality is that there is no prevention or control once a root system has been colonized. There is obviously the avoidance of root damage of any type, which is very unlikely in the urban environment. The positive aspect is that after investigation, immediate removal is not always necessary. It does give your Certified Arborist a baseline mark to make appropriate recommendations regarding a potential timeline for removal and replacement.

This is not anything new to our urban forest, nor is it any type of epidemic that all susceptible tree and plant species will die from. It is a serious concern if a large shade tree shows evidence of this pathogen.

As stewards of this magnificent urban forest, we must be responsible to the trees, and in that mission, we must be honest and reliable with the owners of those trees.

Please rest assured that if you have any concerns with this or any other issues regarding your trees, you can contact one of our arborists for an expert answer to the problem.

## **DID YOU KNOW . . .**

- ✓ Oriental Arborvitae, *Thuja orientalis*, is an ornamental evergreen in our area. The evergreen branches are used for good luck at New Years celebrations by the Chinese.
- ✓ Eastern Cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*, is one of the fastest growing trees in our area. On good sites growth rates have been measured at 5' in a growing season. It is also referred to as "Necklace Poplar". This common name comes from the chain of seed capsules which resembles a chain of beads.
- ✓ Wax Myrtle, *Myrica cerifera*, is a small, rapid growing ornamental tree in our area. This tree is one of the few Puerto Rican trees that is also native to the United States. The seeds are covered with a waxy coating that can be separated by boiling to make a fragrant burning candle.
- ✓ The heaviest weight of green wood per linear foot is the Live Oak, *Quercus virginiana*, weighing in at 76 pounds.
- ✓ Osage Orange, *Maclure pomifera* (also known as Bois D'arc), generates the most heat per cord at 32,900,000 BTU's.

## TEXAS TREE TRAILS: A Virtual Tour of Significant Trees in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area

The Texas Tree Trails program is a project to find, locate, recognize, measure, photograph, and gather data on the significant trees in the DFW area. The gathered information will be available to the public in the form of a virtual tour on the Internet. Texas Tree Trails will showcase the importance of the local botanical, historic, and cultural treasures and be key to preserving them for future generations.

The Texas Tree Trails project is a cooperative effort of three primary stewards--the Texas Forest Service, the Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council, and the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition. The idea of a trail of trees is not new; however, how the groups choose to plan, organize, and operate the project is quite unique.

Nominees can be made in one or more of three categories. The first category is a **Species Significant Tree**. It is a tree that is unusual or unique to the DFW area. Second, is a **Historic or Heritage Tree**. A Historic Tree is at least 50 years old and shares a significant event in a specific place and time. A Heritage Tree has a deep significance to a community. The third category is a **Champion Tree**. This is the largest tree on it's kind in the region, state, or nation.

The community may nominate trees in all categories and a team of volunteers will collect the data to establish the top contenders. Many volunteers are needed for data collection, historical research, and many other interesting project tasks.

If you have questions about the Texas Tree Trail or would like to know more about volunteering to help with the project, please contact:

- ◆ **Sarah Bjornson**, Staff Arborist  
972-442-1524 • [sbjornson@arborilogical.com](mailto:sbjornson@arborilogical.com)
- ◆ **Matt Grubisich**, Texas Forest Service Urban Forester  
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- ◆ [www.texastreetrails.org](http://www.texastreetrails.org) (under construction)

**FREE**

Hardwood mulch is available at our Wylie office.  
Call our office for more information.

**Arborilogical  
Services, Inc.**



*The Tree Care Experts*

**THE EXPERTS  
YOUR  
TREES DESERVE!**