

Love Letter from . . .

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Tree Loving Care

Spring 2007 • Serving All The South Plains Tree Needs Since 1978 • (806) 785-8733

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

As a staunch civil libertarian, I jealously covet my personal freedoms. I firmly believe that Lubbock City government has trampled on the constitution and our personal freedoms with approval of the red light cameras.

For some time, I've been telling you about our wonderful compost that we make by charging you to prune your trees, compost the debris and sell it back to you. We have found a new use for this product. We found that if we mix just the right amount of clay with the compost, it will stick to stuff, such as your windows, license plates, etc. Now, in no way am I suggesting that anyone run red lights, obstruct view of their license plate or do anything else illegal. But I do think it interesting that we've found this ancillary benefit. The big problem is that we don't know what to name the stuff. WE NEED YOUR HELP to name the product.

Please fill out and return the enclosed ballot or if you get this newsletter via email, click <http://www.treelovingcare.com/forms/vote.php>. For your effort, we would like to give you a sample of this product to use in your garden. . . . or wherever. The shop is 1/2 mile past Wolfforth on the Brownfield Hwy. You might let Matt know you are coming so we will be sure to have plenty on hand. We will tally the votes at noon on April 15 and announce the winner on the website on April 16th. Everyone that voted the winning name may come get another free bag. We will trademark the new name but never warranty that the product will do anything except improve the condition of

your soil. The warranty there will be limited to yet another free bag of the stuff. Don't make us call our lawyer.

One of the most satisfying aspects of arboriculture has, for me, always been working on a tree that has been abused and/or neglected and restoring the tree to a thing of beauty, enhancing its health, adding to its lifespan and adding to the lives of people viewing the tree. It is a very satisfying feeling. It is probably what got me hooked on trees in the first place.

All of us at Tree Loving Care just had that experience. We just finished a project in a historic grove of Cottonwoods on Fort Davis in the Davis Mountains. We removed three of the most dangerous trees and pruned eight. Most of the work was done from our largest bucket truck. The rest of the pruning was done by climbers using a crane to provide a false crotch and descend down into the tree. The largest of these is the second largest Rio Grande Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* var *wislizeni*) in the United States. It is 92'5" tall, has a trunk circumference of 355" and a spread of 118'. It is estimated to be 220-250 years old. For a Cottonwood, that is extraordinarily old.

The national champion is on a ranch about 6 miles down Limpia Creek.

We have made a major change at Tree Loving Care and I'm sure that you will find that it is for the better. Matt Langham has joined the Tree Loving Care team. Matt won't be loving your trees directly, but he will



Fort Davis Mountains Cottonwoods



be ensuring that the other Tree Loving Care team members are scheduled correctly, that clients have been contacted in a timely manner and that the appropriate crew and

equipment is sent to the job. He will then call clients after the work is done to ensure that the job has been done to your satisfaction.

To help us provide you with better service, we've developed a survey. If you would like to participate, click on www.treelovingcare.com/forms/survey.php. If you aren't on line, you may call into the office and talk to Matt. Just tell him that you want to participate in the survey. It should take about 2 minutes. To show our appreciation for your participation, we will have a drawing for a \$50 gift card to use anywhere VISA/Master Card is accepted. We will give away 1 card to the telephone participants and 2 cards to on line participants. To be eligible, you must have used our services within the last 10 years and still live in the South Plains area. We will end the survey on April 13th. We appreciate the many thank you cards and attaboys that we've gotten. We want to know what you think, and if you are not satisfied, we want to know that even sooner, so that we can try to change that.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117

TLC Update . . .

Welcome to Matt Langham. Matt joined the TLC team in January and is responsible for scheduling and accounting. He is the proud father of Ashlee-13, Cassidy-11 and Greg-5.

James Tuttle will be head judge of the work climb and James Majors will be head judge of the aerial rescue, both preliminary events at the Texas Tree Climbing Championship in April. To learn more about the TTCC, link to the Texas Chapter of ISA website through our website, www.treelovingcare.com.



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Give Your Trees TLC

We have had excellent moisture over the winter. The rain a week ago was not only very timely, it brought us to above average for this time of year. Deep soil moisture is as good as I have seen for several years. What that means for us right now is that we really don't need to water. It isn't time to set the sprinkler on automatic yet. For our Plant Health Care clients, we will be setting your controllers in a few weeks.

Turning leaves under was mentioned in the Tree Of The Quarter segment of this letter. That is actually a very good idea for all trees. Oak leaves are slightly more acidic than some other trees, which helps our high pH soils.

Organic matter of any kind will have a buffering effect on



Mulch

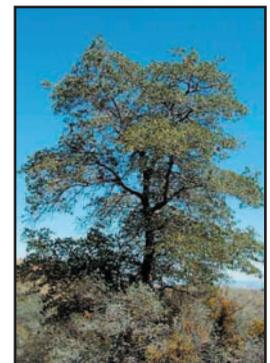
the soil. The lack of organic matter is about the only thing wrong with our soil. Most areas of Texas would kill to have our soil.

An excellent way to get organic matter into your soil is buy back some of the organic matter (limbs and leaves) that we charged you to haul off earlier. We've chipped it, reground it, watered it, turned it, watered it some more, turned it some more, added horse manure, watered and turned it some more and it is now wonderful to put back into your soil. I guess you might say that we aren't really selling you your own stuff back, just charging you a processing fee.

Tree Of The Quarter

Emory Oak, *Quercus emoryi*, grows both in the canyons and up the slopes of the Trans-Pecos area. This tree grows in wetter microclimates of the northern reaches of the Chihuahuan desert. It prefers the igneous acid soils of that region. In our environment, it would probably need acidifying through leaving all the leaves for the winter then turning them under. It also might need gypsum annually, especially if regularly watered with ground water.

Emory Oak grows to 60-70' in ideal parts of its native range, but would probably only get 40-50' in Lubbock. Once established, it would certainly get by just fine on our natural rainfall. It is evergreen and is very similar to Escarpment Live Oak. When I first started going to that area of Texas, I thought that the Emory Oak was a Live Oak.



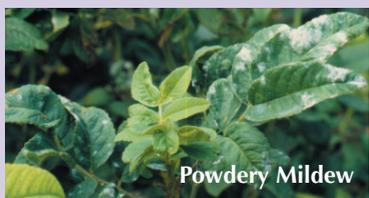
Emory Oak

Mountain States grows Emory Oak and ships to several retail nurseries in this area. I remember seeing some at Tom's Tree Place a few weeks ago.

Critters and Crud

Spring is in the air which means the Critters will be in the air soon. Actually some already are. The Crud will probably be doing fine, too.

If we get another several days of rain be ready to spray for that foliar disease as a preventative. It will especially on roses, crape myrtles and euonymus. Most fungicides work much better



Powdery Mildew

as a preventative than as a cure. Get on it early.

Dr. Harold Kaufman, retired Plant Pathologist with A&M will be on our radio show (Friday, March 30th, at 9:00 a.m. on KRFE AM 580) to

talk about plant diseases.

Spring and summer is when much insect damage occurs. One of the best management tools is a soil application of Merit systemic insecticide for leaf chewing and sap sucking insects. That needs to be done soon. It is the best control for galls on oaks. Give Matt a call to schedule an appointment with one of our ISA Certified Arborists.