

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Summer 2012 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

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Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

I have been asked to make many more diagnosis of tree problems this year than normal. I can sum up 75% of them in one word; water. Even though we have had more rain than last year at this point, actually, we have already had almost as much rain this year as all of last year, it still isn't nearly enough to break the drought. There is virtually no deep moisture. We are still at about a total of about 14" inches in 23 months. Our average is over 18" in 12 months. If you want me to sum it up in 2 words, I'll use 'bone dry'. If you want me to use 3 words; how about 'still bone dry'. I hope everyone is beginning to understand. Now, the answer to this problem IS NOT to water ¼ inch every other day. Give your entire landscape a thorough watering (1-2") every 2-3 weeks.

It seems very ironic to me that after a lifetime of loving trees and over 34 years of the business of loving trees, I recently bought a business in which, to a large extent, trees are a natural enemy. I recently bought South Plains Windpower, a wind turbine and solar business. The new business name will change to Solar Wind Energy Company and will focus on small wind and solar.

Wind turbines will generally be marketed only to people with an acre or more, so probably won't sell many turbines in the city. Solar, on the other hand, can go almost anywhere you have 9 hours of direct sunlight.

Both segments of the green energy have gone through their infancy, but are by no means mature. Wind is not for everyone, and generally has a little higher initial cost. Solar can be effectively set up for almost any size applications. The main solar system we will sell, is a submersible water pump that is powered by a solar array. These systems are very cost effective, but you will need a fairly large holding capacity. If you would like more information, give me a call. I would be glad to assess your situation and design a system that will reduce your electricity bill.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

Tree Of The Quarter

As many Cottonwoods as Tree Loving Care has been working on lately and since there is no such thing as a tree that doesn't have beauty and some wonderful attributes, and since all things are relative, I felt compelled to have the Rio Grande Cottonwood as tree of the quarter. In March, Tree Loving Care spent 2 weeks working on the historic grove of Cottonwoods on Fort Davis, including the recently crowned state champion Cottonwood. The previous state champion was national champion as well and was located about 6 miles down Limpia Creek.

The state champion Cottonwood is a little over 9' diameter trunk measured at 4.5' above the ground, 79' tall (previously, we measured it at over 90' tall, but the tree is in decline and we had to take several large dead limbs and it lost that much height), and 92' spread.

Cottonwoods are native in all parts of Texas, including even the Caprock, but only along waterways or near playa lakes. They are very fast growing and as such, generally short lived. That is still relative. The state champion tree is estimated to be 200-250 years old, based primarily on what we know about other trees in the vicinity and historic photos of the fort and the trees size 100 years ago.



Cottonwood

Summer 2012

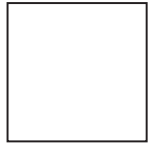
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TREE LOVING CARE

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Return Service Requested



Give Your Trees TLC

There are a couple of things that get repeated so often at Tree Loving Care, that a few people may think the needle is stuck. Trees need water less often, but just as much as grass and they need less nitrogen and more organic matter. Organic matter supports micro organisms which support the tree. We are just trying to re-create what God intended to be the support system for that particular system.

Actually, that is the main idea. It is a system, not just one plant stuck in your yard. And, regardless of what else happens, it is a system. Maybe not a complete system or one that is functioning properly, but it is still a system. The addition of organic matter will help the system. The addition of living plants such as competitive turf under the tree hardly qualifies. It is statistically well proven that trees in ground cover and flower beds do much better than trees in turf. Even concrete would be part of the system, even though it has never been seen forest, the natural system.

TLC Update

The Texas Tree Climbing Championship was in Austin at the end of April. Dominic Rendon was TLC's only competitor, coming in 21st. Not bad for a west Texas boy competing against the best climbers in the state. James Majors and Steven Proa were technicians on Belayed Speed Climb, one of the preliminary events and James Tuttle judged Secured Foot Lock, another of the preliminary events and the Masters Challenge which is the finals.

At the end of the finals, James Tuttle and Tom Dunlap announced that the first annual Geezers Challenge will be held this fall in Lubbock, date to be announced (probably



James Majors

mid October). This is a replication of the tree climbing competition, but you have to be over 40 and compete against others in your age group and the judging is by the young guys that normally compete. So if you would like to see some of the best climbers from around the country that 'the older they get, the faster they used to be', look for the event on our website, www.treelovingcare.com or Texas Chapter website, www.isa-texas.com.



James Tuttle

Critters and Cruds

Bagworms are already active and so are many other critters. It is that time of year. In the Permian Basin, Fall Webworms are already making an appearance. It is time to control many of the critters that feed on trees and shrubs. They best time to control any problem is while it is still small. Call Tree Loving Care at 806-785-8733 or 432-620-8733 to have one of our Certified Arborists come by to assess the needs that your trees might have. Timing is one of the most important factors in controlling these problems.

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