

*Love Letter from . . .*

# Tree Loving Care

Winter 2010 • Serving All The South Plains Tree Needs Since 1978 • (806) 785-8733

## Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Tree Loving Care has been very blessed this year and we would like to thank every one of our friends and clients for that blessing. We hope you have been as blessed and we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The severe ice storm at the end of January was devastating to many trees, but it did generate a great deal of business for us and most of the other tree services around town. For us, that was a silver lining to an otherwise very dark cloud. At Tree Loving Care, our name really does state our concern for love for trees in general and the ones in your landscape in particular.

The abundant rains in spring and early summer were wonderful for growth of the cotton crop as well as trees. Pecans are having a bumper crop this year. The tremendous load of nuts did lead to a lot of branch breakage in early fall. There are many branches that are still hanging or had stress fractures (branches bent enough to break at the shear plane between the tension and compression sides and you can now see light through the middle of the branch, but they didn't break over....only bent slightly lower than their original position) These branches are much weaker and susceptible to breakage in the next storm. Please inspect your trees for these or call 785-8733 and have one of our Certified Arborists inspect them for you.

Just before Thanksgiving, Christmas Décor by Tree Loving Care had the opportunity to say thank you to a military family by decorating their home. Every year, we take nominations for a family of a service member that is deployed overseas and cannot be home to decorate for Christmas and we go do it for them.

I would like to invite everyone to come out and see our Christmas light display. Our display in front of Tree Loving Care, 9821 US 62, Wolfforth, has

about 100,000 lights and is animated. You can sit in the comfort of your vehicle, tune into FM 101.5 and watch the lights dance to the music. If you want to get out and walk around in the display, that is ok, too. Please come out to see it. Go to [www.treelovingcare.com](http://www.treelovingcare.com)



Miracles Parade Float

to see a video of the display. It includes the house that was our float in the Miracles Parade on December 11th.

*James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117-A*

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**'Tree Talk for Texas'**  
**9:00 a.m. Fridays**  
**on KRFE AM 580**

## Tree Of The Quarter

Post Oak, *Quercus stellata*, is a very sturdy tree with a very large range. There are very few in Lubbock and need to be used more. You do have to be very patient, however. Post Oak are very sensitive to having their roots disturbed and there isn't much more disturbing than losing most of them in transplanting. We have one at Tree Loving Care that was moved in about 1983 as a 3" specimen and it just sat there for at least 5 years before it established enough roots to begin growing again. It is now 13" caliper and over 20' tall.

Post Oak get 40-50 feet tall with a comparable spread. Fall color is brown. They are more show in the spring than fall.

Post Oak have very few insect or disease problems. Wasowski lists them as plants that are susceptible to Oak Wilt, but I've not found that to be the case. I've never known of one being lost to that disease.



Post Oak

**Visit our website at**  
**[www.treelovingcare.com](http://www.treelovingcare.com)**



# TREE LOVING CARE

9821 Brownfield Hwy • Wolfforth, Texas 79382

Return Service Requested

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## Give Your Trees TLC

It looks like we will finish about 8" above average for rainfall for the year. That is great, but it is sometimes a matter of 'what have you done for me lately' and we have had precious little lately. You do need to give your entire landscape about an inch of moisture per month during the winter. For most sprinkler systems, that means about a half hour of run time per zone. However, you should make sure by putting a rain gauge to measure the output, if you've not done that in the last few years.

If we have snow or ice in the forecast, be aware of the tremendous weight that a plant can accumulate in a short period of time and be prepared to knock off some of the snow and ice. It can save your plants in many cases.

Winter also means cold temperatures and your trees can't come inside, so please leave their blanket outside with them. The leaves they drop in the fall is to cover their roots to protect from the cold winter.



## Critters and Cruds

Insects are cold blooded critters and normally survive winter, but severe cold will kill many insects. It depends mostly on how low the temperature gets. Around the end of the winter, they will be at their weakest. That is why we apply dormant oil treatments in January-early February. We will be calling or emailing clients with problems such as scale and mites for a treatment, but feel free to call us, too. It is an excellent time to suppress many critters that may be a problem later in the year.

## TLC Update

Tree Loving Care is proud to have Theodore (Butch) Lathey, Certified Arborist TX3624A join the team. Butch was manager of Asplundh operations for Xcel Energy in much of west Texas and eastern New Mexico.