

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Spring 2016 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

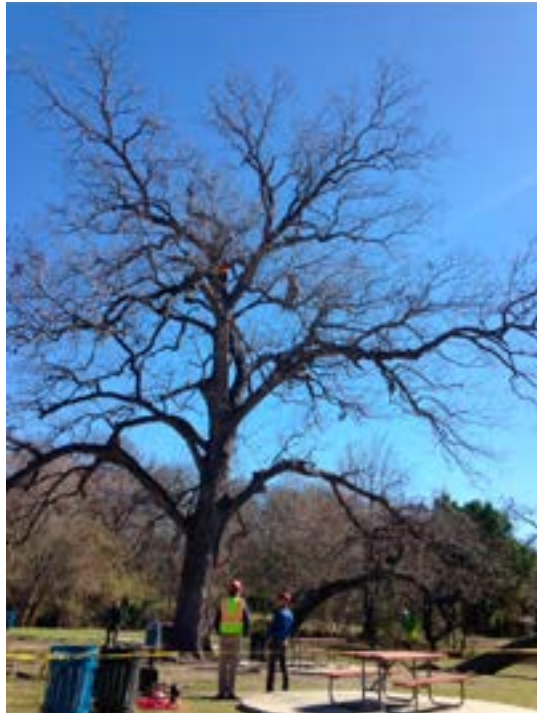


Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Spring has sprung, a bit earlier than normal. We had one near record snow fall in December and it was wonderful moisture, but it is about all we have gotten all winter. November through March is normally a very dry period for west Texas and this winter, it has been quite dry. So, give your entire landscape a good drink. I suggest at least the equivalent of 2" of rain, if you have not watered this winter. I also suggest that the entire 2" be applied over no more than a 2 day period.

Even though spring is in the air and things are leafing out, officially, it is still winter until March 21. We do have an early Easter this year and often this area gets a cold front somewhere around Easter. So, watch the weather and if you have tender plants growing in the garden already, be prepared to cover them. If we have a frost below about 30 degrees when new shoots are already growing on trees and shrubs, they may be killed by the frost. It's certainly not good for them, but, generally, that is a temporary setback. However, it will take the plant a while to recover and they will be unsightly for a while, so if you can cover your shrubs, do so.

For some of our climbers, one of the most important things that will happen this year, perhaps one of the most memorable events of their life, is the [International Tree Climbing Championship](#). The ITCC is less than a month away. It will be April 2-3 in Brackenridge Park in San Antonio. If you want to see climbers that glide around in the top of 80' trees like a squirrel, rub elbows with the very best climbers from all over the world and talk trees, this is the event for you. It is a wonderful family event. I have been to 2 ITCC events and what a blast. I have judged at the Texas Championship for over 20 years, and it is a wonderful event, but this is like going from Lubbock Speedway to Daytona. Bring lawn chairs, hunger for tacos, a desire to be entertained and a thirst for knowledge.



If you are in the Permian Basin, listen every Thursday morning at 9:00 to Tree Talk for Texas on [KWEL AM 1070 and 107.1](#). If you are technologically challenged like me, there are other ways of listening. Just ask your 15 year old child or grandchild.

We are continuing to try to improve our online presence. One of the things that affect [Google placement](#) is reviews. If we have worked for you and you enjoyed the experience, please write us a review. If you don't mind us using your comments as recommendations on our website, please let us know. If we have fallen short of excellent customer service, please let us know that so we can try to fix that problem.

Notice that some of the text in this newsletter is green. This is to designate that this is a clickable hyperlink to additional information on the internet. If you receive the online version of this newsletter, please click on some of them and let us know what you think. If you want more timely information, follow me on Twitter and Facebook.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

Tree Of The Quarter

Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, is definitely not a desert plant, but for a tree that grows in the edge of the creek and the middle of the swamp, it is surprisingly drought tolerant. Because of its normal range, it is not a tree that would be normally recommended for west Texas, except along permanent waterways. And, it is the tree in which the ITCC events will be held.

Bald Cypress is one of the largest growing trees in North America. In West Texas, they will probably never get over 60' height and 36" of trunk diameter. It will definitely need supplemental watering so put it in the part of the landscape that includes any other high water use plants. Zonal planting based on water use is a very important of any landscape design. Bald Cypress has few insect pests.



Bald Cypress
(*Taxodium distichum*)



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KWEL AM 1070 • FM 107.1
every Thursdays morning
at 9:00 a.m.

GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Spring means a new set of leaves, flowers, more roots and an additional layer of wood for trees. All of that process takes a lot of water and not much has fallen from the sky. November-March is normally a dry period for West Texas. Give your entire landscape a good soak (this is repetition from the opening of this letter because it is that important). This does not mean frequent watering is desirable. If watering has been done more than weekly, it is very important to also apply gypsum. Often, just the fact that one is watering with ground water means that you need an annual application of gypsum.

Spring also means it is time for organic fertilization and controlling critters. TLC recommends organic fertilization because it works so much better in the long run. As a matter of fact, it works every time it is tried. It includes humic acid, fish emulsion, compost tea, worm castings and soil activators. Call TLC at 877-594-8733 or the local offices. The Lubbock number is 806-785-8733 and Midland number is 432-620-8733. One of our Certified Arborists will be glad to determine whatever needs your trees may have to maintain good health.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Cold blooded critters such as insects and mites are often killed by severe cold, especially if it is prolonged cold. We didn't have any of that in west Texas this last winter and spring has arrived early. That means that there is a much larger breeding population of critters and ones that have multiple generations will have one or two more than normal.

Eriococcus Scale is one of those insects that, for 10 years, has been, and is still a tremendous problem in the Lubbock area and has now spread to the Permian Basin. Scale insects are sap suckers and this particular insect has several generations per year. Since it has few natural controls, it has a reproductive potential that is amazing. One female can lay up to 200 eggs. If there are 4 generations per year and there is only 20% survival rate and half are females, the potential is



160,000 individual critters in one year from only one critter. That makes it very important to get some good control in that early generation. Call Tree Loving Care at 877-594-8733 to have one of our Certified Arborists assess the needs of your trees.

TLC UPDATE

In early March, Chris Lathey from the Lubbock office and Keith Cooper from the Midland office joined about 20 other arborists from around the state in San Antonio to prune the trees that will be used in the International Tree Climbing Championship. They were pretty excited. If you have the chance to go to the event, it will be in Brackenridge Park in San Antonio April 2-3.

ISATexas is sponsoring a master series of workshops and in February James Tuttle attended a 2 day workshop in Houston on detection, measurement and evaluation of decay in trees. The workshop was taught by Frank Rinn, a German physicist that invented the Resistograph and Sonic Tomography. Frank is the world's leading authority on this aspect of tree care.

The Resistograph measures resistance to the force required to drill a very tiny hole in the tree and records the difference so that one has a verifiable record. Sonic Tomography is a series of sensors attached to the tree that measures the speed of sound waves as it travels through the wood. Sound wood conducts the energy easier and faster than decayed wood and hollows. It can detect and locate sizeable roots also, giving the arborists a much better picture of the condition and location of the root system.



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