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Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council

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Tree Notes

August 2011

Annual Meeting & Elections

Join us September 16 at Mineral Wells State Park ([link](#)) for our annual membership meeting and election of officers.

Each year CTUFC holds the annual meeting in conjunction with an opportunity to reconnect with our local ecosystems. On Friday September 16th, the Annual Meeting will be held at Lake Mineral Wells State Park.



Lake Mineral Wells

A guided hike will precede the meeting and start promptly at 10:00am at the trail head near the Cross Timbers Camping Area. The first section of the Primitive Campground Access Trail is a true representation of the western cross timbers ecosystem. The contorted post oaks growing along the rocky outcroppings may be short in stature but can be a few hundred years old. The trail is moderate in difficulty as it snakes through rocky outcroppings requiring stair stepping style elevation changes. Sturdy shoes and insect repellent is recommended.

The Annual Meeting will take place at Noon on September 16th at the Group Dining Hall in the Screened Shelter Area. Lunch will be provided. The agenda will include election of officers and an opportunity to guide the objectives for the coming year.

We encourage members to bring their families and explore the area through an extended stay. This is also a splendid way to get to better know your fellow CTUFC members and board members.

A very important part of our annual meeting is the **election of officers** for the next year. **We are seeking nominations for the following positions on the board;** 3 Directors (one a Citizen Forester to act as liaison), Secretary / Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Vice-President. Please consider serving on this board. We meet every other month usually for less than an hour. Citizen Foresters can count this towards their volunteer hours.

Please RSVP for lunch to Melinda.Adams@fortworthgov.org or 817 392 5705 by 5:00pm on Thursday September 15.

Lake Mineral Wells State Park, located east of Mineral Wells in Parker County, consists of 3282.5 acres, encompassing Lake Mineral Wells. Lake Mineral Wells State Park is located along Rock Creek, a large tributary of the Brazos River. This area was an early home to several Native American tribes including the Comanche. Popular activities at the park include camping; lake swimming (unsupervised); fishing; boating (no skiing/tubing, or jet skis permitted); rock climbing (climbers and rappellers must check in at headquarters); mountain biking; equestrian camping, horseback riding (visitors must provide their own horses); and hiking.

Effects of Drought on Trees

Gareth Harrier, Barlett Tree Expert Company

Moisture deficiency is one of the most common sources of stress in the landscape. While native trees and many of our landscape selections are tolerant of periodic drought conditions, long-term persistent drought may significantly affect plant health and survival. Knowledge of the effects of drought will improve our ability to care for trees, and respond appropriately when damage occurs.



Every physiological process of plant function is affected by moisture deficiency. Photosynthesis is limited by a reduction in gas exchange and transpiration that occurs when the stomata of leaves close, and moisture is conserved within the plant. The production and movement of essential materials within the plant necessary for development and defense is reduced under these conditions.



Defoliation and dieback of the root system and crown may occur during severe drought. The effects can persist for years, well after the drought has subsided, with many plants failing to recover fully before the next event. Drought-stressed plants are more susceptible to attack by insects, mites and fungal pathogens, inducing

additional stress that may force the plant into further decline. Chronic stress can overwhelm a plant's ability to survive.

Proper maintenance of established trees can alleviate much of the stress caused by severe drought. Irrigation, mulching, maintenance and fertilization are important for the care of trees where drought is a concern.

Irrigation, where possible, is the best defense against drought stress, but even when watering is difficult to achieve, we can take action to reduce the effects of drought. Mulching is the most effective way to conserve moisture and improve the structure and condition of the soil. Incorporating compost, quality fertilizer and other amendments into the soil through root invigoration or similar methods will reduce nutrient deficiencies and aid in drought recovery. Pruning away dead, dying or diseased branches and foliage can remove insects and cankers, and

reduce decay. A tree canopy that is well-developed through proper pruning will retain interior foliage that remains productive in the shade. Finally, pests should be managed for the protection of the tree while minimizing harm to beneficial organisms.

New Insecticide for Tree Care

Drought stress inevitably increases insect pests on trees. Click on the link below for an article on a promising new systemic.

[New Systemic Insecticide Approved for Insect Control in Conifers and Hardwoods.](#)



Elm Bark Beetle
Galleries

Natives, Invasives, Cultivars and Weeds

What makes one plant a weed and another not? When is a plant invasive versus native? Cross Timbers UFC board member and Texas AgriLife's Laura Miller attempts to answer these questions in an interesting article at the link below.

[Natives, Invasives, Cultivars and Weeds](#)

Tree Transplanting - Coming Full-Circle

by Greg David, TreeConsult

Johnny Appleseed would have been proud! Back when he was planting trees, bare-root transplanting was the method-of-choice. Small trees were pulled-up from the ground during the winter, and the bare roots were bundled together, wrapped in burlap or moss, and then shipped to their new location to be planted.



Large "bare root" tree

Bare-rooting then evolved into the "balled-and-burlapped" (B&B) method. Rootballs were dug so that a good bit of soil was moved along with the tree. The theory went that, although fewer roots were moved over-all, more of the feeder-root system was left intact, so success rates would be higher.



"Balled & Burlapped" root ball

Next came container-production of trees. Since no roots are cut during the transplantation process, container-grown trees avoid the transplant-shock problems associated with B&B trees, so their success rates are much higher. Unfortunately, that initial success often doesn't translate into a good long-term tree. It has been estimated that 80% of all tree health problems start below ground. Buried root flares, J-roots, circling roots, and girdling roots all combine to create a whole host of problems for container-grown trees over both the short and long terms.



Root Ball

A relatively new spin on the container-grown option is to grow trees in rigid black fabric pots that "air-prune" the outer inch or so of the rootball. The high heat around the edges of the pot stop roots from circling around the inner surface of the pot. Although this method is a big improvement over the old plastic pots, it still does not completely eliminate the production-related issues of improper root-flare depth and circling roots formed inside the rootball when the trees were grown in liners and small plastic pots prior to bumping into the final fabric pots.

But now, it looks like we may be turning the clock back about 150 years. Research conducted at Virginia Tech and elsewhere is showing that bare-rooting even large trees may be the best option for both high initial transplant success and greatly improved long-term tree health. Researchers have found that production and shipping costs for large

bare-root trees should be greatly reduced as compared to other production methods, and lightweight bare-root trees can easily be handled either by-hand or with very small equipment.

Since more root system actually gets planted with each tree, transplant success rates are very high. Also, since the root system is "mudded" into a shallow planting hole, the tree adapts to its new site more quickly, and staking is seldom needed (we'll see about that in our Texas winds!). Finally, since the root system is inspected and pruned prior to installation, circling roots, J-roots, and other root problems can be fixed before the tree goes into the ground.

There is still a lot-to-be-learned about transplanting large shade trees by the bare-root method, and it may turn out that bare-rooting large trees never really catches-on. One big drawback is that the process requires more labor at the planting-site than traditional B&B or container approaches. Another potential drawback is that we may find that some tree species don't respond well to the bare-root approach.

Regardless, bare-rooting is an exciting new (old) method for creating instant shade. We're going to try some experimental plantings around the office this fall, so we will keep you posted on the outcome!

End your promotion with a kick -- consider a postscript to reinforce one of the key product or service benefits.

Sincerely,

Courtney Blevins
Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council

The mission of the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council is to Promote programs in the region to increase interest in Urban & Community Forestry

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