

TREE



NOTES

To promote programs in the region to increase interest in urban and community forestry
Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council • 4200 South Freeway, Suite 2200 • Fort Worth • Texas • 76115-1499

May • 2005

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Regional Arbor Day Poster Contest Award Winner

The Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council (CTUFC) and the Texas Forest Service recently recognized Alex Rutan of Burton Hill Elementary in Ft. Worth (Westworth Village) as the winner of the Council's Regional Arbor Day Poster Contest. Alex and her teacher, Mrs. Alvarez, both received prizes from the Texas Forest Service including the book, *Famous Trees of Texas*. Alex was also presented her certificate for Honorable Mention in the statewide level of the contest.

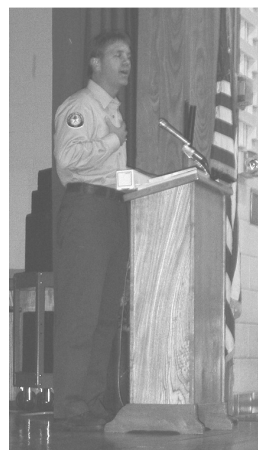


Left to right - Melinda Adams, Mrs. Alvarez, Alex Rutan

With Westworth Village's mayor, local officials, and Westworth Garden Club representatives were on hand to participate in the ceremony, Melinda Adams, CTUFC Past President, presented the regional prizes from the Council. As the classroom teacher of the winning student, Mrs. Alvarez received a check for \$100. A \$100 check was

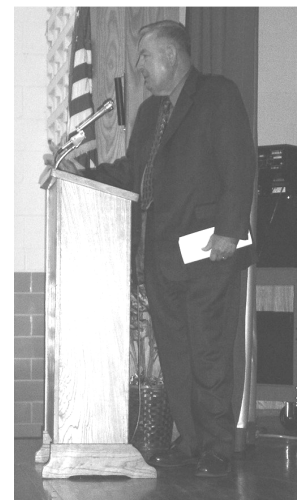
presented to the Westworth Garden Club for a pizza party for Alex's class. As the winning student, Alex received a \$100 check to spend as she wishes.

Arbor Day Poster Contest is held each year for 5th grade students throughout the United States. Over 6,000 students participated in Texas. Each state's winner is forwarded to the national contest which is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation.



Courtney Blevins, Texas Forest Service

For more information about the Texas Forest Service and the Poster Contest, visit www.txforestservation.tamu.edu.



Andy Fontenot, Mayor

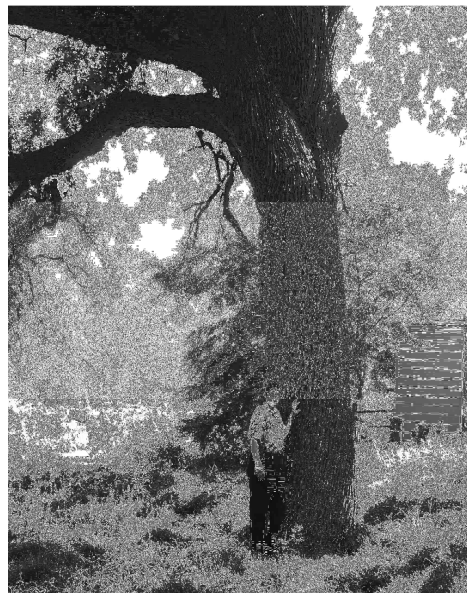
A Day in the Life of... ...A Landscape Horticulturist

Kathleen Cook loves textures. Talking about a “typical” day in at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, she describes the cut stones in the Rose Garden, the texture of tree bark, and the delicacy of a new fern display.

By training, Kathleen is a Landscape Architect; by job title, she is the Landscape Horticulturist. This year will mark her 20th year at the Garden. With a B.A. in Art and experience as an assistant supervisor at a golf course, Kathleen began her Botanic Garden career tending the gardens and grounds in the Japanese Garden. As she gardened, she also studied, earning a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the University of Texas at Arlington.

A typical day with Kathleen is significant for its “untypicalness.” “Gardens are all about change and can’t stay the same all the time; almost like a living organism,” she says. An idea to revamp an area will “start to grow” and she will be immersed in that project. Right now, she and the garden crew are looking at putting in a fern garden. An important element of that design will be protecting the huge, old oak tree which will provide the shade for the ferns. When the butterflies returned to the Botanic Garden in March, Kathleen was involved in developing the publications for this unique living exhibit. She oversees the perennial Trial Garden which tests the suitability of plants for the area. She works with the volunteers to test out new cultivars to be marketed to the average homeowner for the plant’s drought tolerance, low maintenance, prolonged bloom season, disease resistance, and general aesthetic qualities.

And then the trees.... “I treasure our trees,” says Kathleen. “How can you not love something that gives so much. So many trees are cultural icons.” As she develops her plans, she first takes into account the impact on the trees. She picks no favorites, though she does love the bur oak. The huge cottonwood in the Japanese Garden is on the top of her list, especially on windy days. Her ultimate goal for the Botanic Garden? To reach those who have never visited the oldest botanical garden in Texas so more will see the stately quality of the trees, visit the historic rose garden, and just enjoy the beauty of the Garden.



Kathleen and one of the Garden’s bur oak



Many people, other than the authors, contribute to the making of a book, from the first person who had the bright idea of alphabetic writing through the inventor of movable type to the lumberjacks who felled the trees that were pulped for its printing. It is not customary to acknowledge the trees themselves, though their commitment is total. - Rada and

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Oak trees come out of acorns, no matter how unlikely that seems. An acorn is just a tree's way back into the ground. For another try. Another trip through. One life for another.-
Ann Gray Shirley



How to Plant a Tree

In our part of the country, the best time to Plant a tree is from late October through February. Planting during this time allows roots to begin growing before the hot, dry days of summer. Getting a good root system established is the key to successful tree planting. There are several steps to properly planting a tree.

1. Select an Appropriate Site

Match the tree to the site. Make sure you know the mature size of the tree. For instance, don't plant a live oak ten feet from your house! Also, locate sprinkler systems and any underground utilities to avoid damage to those. Be sure to consider the trees' water requirements too. Don't plant a dry site species, such as Afghan pine, on a poorly drained site. Soil is also important. For example don't try planting an acid loving slash pine on an alkaline soil.

2. Dig a Wide Hole

Your planting hole should be the same depth as the root ball is tall and at least twice as wide. Trees planted too deep usually have trouble and often die. Be sure to slope the sides of the planting hole so that the shape resembles a saucer. Also, roughen the sides of the hole so the roots can better penetrate the surrounding soil. This is especially important in clay soils.

3. Position the Tree in the Hole

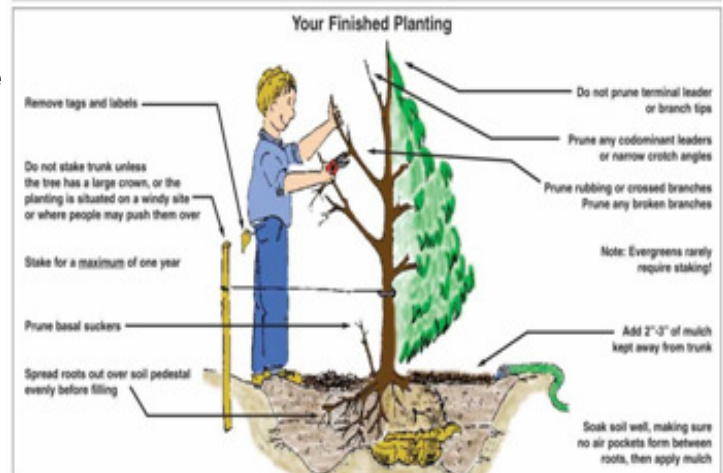
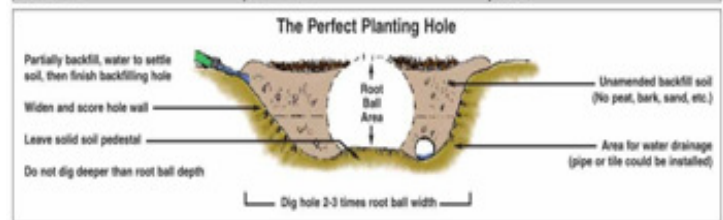
Handle the tree gently by the root ball or container, not the trunk. If in a container, lay it on its side and roll the container until the root ball can be easily slipped out. Place the tree in the center of the hole making sure it is straight. The bottom of the root ball should sit on firm soil; do not loosen the soil beneath the root ball. The top of the root ball should be even with the ground line. If the root ball is burlapped carefully cut away and remove all binding strings, wire and as much of the burlap as you can.

4. Backfill with Original Soil

Fill the hole halfway with the soil that came from the hole. Don't add sand, foreign soil or other amendments. Soak with water to remove air pockets and settle the soil. Then fill the remainder of the hole and soak again. Do not pack the wet soil down; let it settle with the water. Extra soil may be used to form a berm, or water ring around the planting hole. It will eventually dissolve.

5. Mulch

Add 2 to 3 inches of mulch to the planting area. **Mulch is very important!** Mulch insulates the soil, reduces weed and grass competition, retains moisture, adds nutrients, increases soil microbial activity and prevents soil compaction. Mulching and preventing grass competition will increase growth rates substantially. It also reduces mortality rates.



Poster Design by Dr. Bonnie Appleton, Virginia Tech University;
Illustration Layout by S. K. Kane

COMMUNITREE ACTION...

WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Thanks to CTUFC Coordinator Stevon Smith, the CTUFC volunteers and the members of the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity!!!!



Planting for the Future!



For the third straight year, the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council and the Tarrant County Habitat for Humanity worked together during the October 2004 Habitat Blitz to help landscape Habitat for Humanity yards for new homeowners.



In an orchard there should be enough to eat, enough to lay up, enough to be stolen, and enough to rot on the ground.

James





Order **YOUR** License Plate today!
Application form with this newsletter!

The Cross Timbers *A Natural Wonder*



In 2003 the CTUFC applied for and received a Texas Forest Service matching grant to produce a traveling exhibit about the Cross Timbers ecosystem and the role of urban forestry. Completed in late 2004, the exhibit has been displayed at the City of Southlake Library, the City of Denton Town Hall, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, and the City of Weatherford Town Hall. It is currently installed at Weatherford College, thanks to the Parker County Master Gardeners under the leadership of Marlene Deaton and Homer Babbitt. If you would like to reserve the display for your town or organization, please contact Emily Galpin, 817.421.5648 or e-mail her at galpineh@charter.net. Many thanks first of all to Dr. Richard Francaviglia, author of *The Cast Iron Forest* who gave us permission to use his sketches, photos and text for the exhibit, to the Texas Forest Service for the opportunity to develop the exhibit, to Diana McPhail, graphic artist, and to the CTUFC volunteers who helped with the planning and creation and the moving of the exhibit!!!!

INTERESTED IN BEING A CTUFC SPONSOR?

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Introducing the CTUFC Sponsor Package

\$500 sponsorships will greatly help the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council accomplish its mission, including assisting groups with tree plantings, promoting tree care, providing tree information, and sponsoring tree care workshops.

Sponsor Package includes:

- Quarter page ad in the newsletter for one year
- Two complete registrations to workshops
- 10% discount for all other employees
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For more information, contact Larry Schaapveld at reesandquails@earthlink.net.

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In creating, the only hard thing's to begin; a grass-blade's no easier to make than an oak.

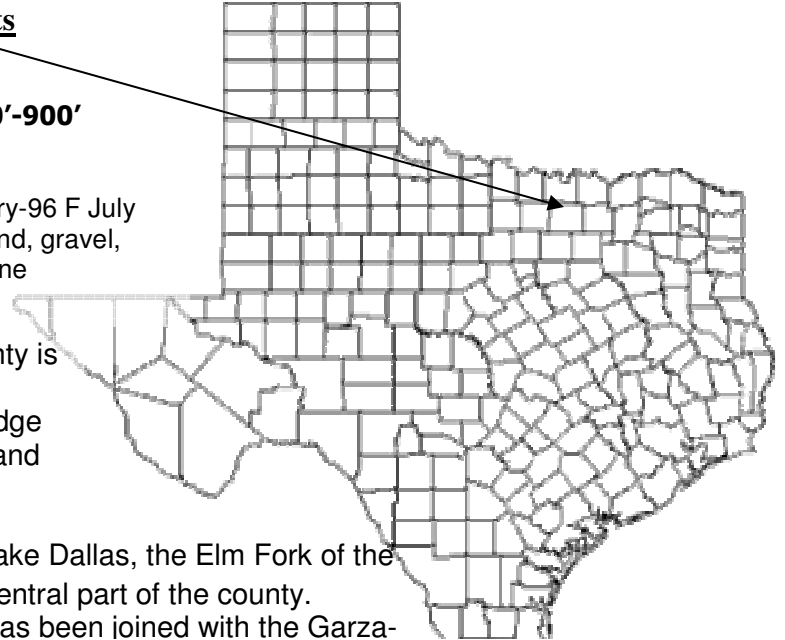
- James Russell Lowell

CROSS TIMBER URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL COUNTIES

The CTUFC includes 17 counties in north central Texas. This is the fourth in the series to provide a snapshot of each of the counties: **Archer, Clay, Cooke, Denton, Erath, Hood, Jack, Johnson, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Stevens, Tarrant, Wichita, Wise, Young**

Denton County Quick Facts

County Seat:	Denton
Population (2000):	432,976
Elevation:	500'-900'
Yearly Rainfall Average:	33"
Growing Season:	226 days
Temperature Range:	34 F January-96 F July
Mineral Resources:	Oil, gas, sand, gravel, building stone



The western half of Denton County is covered with the black soil of the Grand Prairie and the eastern edge is on the edge of the Blackland Prairie with the sandy land of the Eastern Cross Timbers jutting in between.

Dammed in the 1920's to form Lake Dallas, the Elm Fork of the Trinity River flows through the eastern central part of the county. Since the initial damming, Lake Dallas has been joined with the Garza-Little Elm Reservoir to form Lewisville Lake. There are several creeks that run through the western part of the county. Clear Creek drains into Elm fork and Hickory Creek drains into Lewisville Lake. Denton Creek and its tributaries are sources of water for Lake Grapevine, which is partly in Denton County and partly in Tarrant County. In the flood plains of the creeks and in the Cross Timbers, blackjack and post oak, pecan and white ash, sycamore, cottonwood, hackberry, elm and willow trees predominate. Most of the rest of the county was originally covered by grasses.

U.S Army Corps of Engineer surveys have indicated some use of the area between 4,000 and 2,500 B.C. There has been little evidence that the county was the site of any large Indian villages in the Historic period (1600-1800), though there are remains of many small transitory camps and small burial grounds.

Anglo settlement began in 1841 when William Peters obtained a land grant which became known as the Peters Colony. Most ante-bellum settlers came from the upper South – Tennessee and Kentucky - and most settled in the Cross Timbers. In 1846 the Texas Legislature formed Denton County out of larger Fannin County. The county was named for John Bunyan Denton, a preacher and lawyer who was killed in a raid against Indians in Northern Tarrant County in 1841. A permanent county seat was established (after at least four tries) in 1856 and was also named Denton. Denton was finally incorporated as a city in 1866.

By 1880 almost 50 percent of the county was in cultivation. Wheat became the ideal crop in the Grand Prairie area of the county and railroads played a major role in supporting that wheat production. The county's population growth and economical and cultural life was influenced by the establishment of the University of North Texas (Texas Normal College – 1890) and Texas Women's University (Girls' Industrial College – 1903).

Source: Handbook of Texas Online

That each day I may walk unceasingly on the banks of my water, that my soul may repose on the branches of the trees which I planted, that I may refresh myself under the shadow of my sycamore.

- Egyptian tomb inscription, circa 1400 BCE

Sycamore trees were held to be sacred in ancient Egypt and are the first trees represented in ancient art.

HOW TO PLANT... (cont'd)

6. Water

Water requirements vary greatly according to soil type, weather conditions and irrigation procedures. Water your tree on a regular basis for the first two years. As a rule-of-thumb once a week during the growing season and every two to three weeks when dormant. Of course if there has been significant rainfall skip the manual watering during that period. Water slowly and deeply. Lawn sprinklers do not provide adequate water for newly planted trees! Do not over water as this can also damage or even kill your tree.

7. Finishing Touches

- Remove any trunk wrapping unless it is a very thin barked tree located next to an area with intense solar radiation (such as next to a street)
- Remove all tags and labels that might girdle the tree as it increases in size.
- For this same reason avoid staking the tree if at all possible. If staking is need make it loose, not rigid and remove it after one year.
- Prune away dead or damaged limbs and co-dominate leader. Avoid any other pruning the first couple of years! Research has shown that leaving temporary lower branches increases trunk strength and proper taper.
- Add an expandable collar to the base of the trunk to protect against weed trimmers

6 Degrees of Separation?

How About 60 Nautical Miles of Confluence?

The Degree Confluence Project was established to document change that occurs on the face of the earth over time and see how man and nature impact our landscape. The goal of the project is to visit each of the latitude and longitude integer degree intersections in the world, and to take pictures at each location. The pictures and stories are then posted on the website. This is an opportunity to get an “organized sampling of the world.”

Each degree is approximately 60 nautical miles (nm) apart. Latitude lines are always 60 nm apart; however, longitudinal lines converge at the poles, so they would only be 60 nm at the equator. Interestingly enough, “there is a confluence within 40 miles (79km) of you if you are on the surface of Earth.

At the homepage – www.confluence.org – click on “United States” (or another country), then click on the state of your choice. You are then given specific locations and you can view the photos taken there.

Original article submitted by Joe Pace, Entomologist, Texas Forest Service, Lufkin, TX for Texas Forest Service.



THANK YOU!

John Davis

at

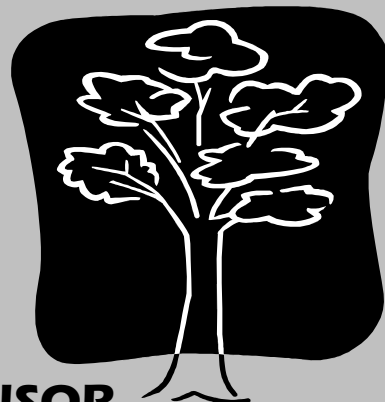
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The pine tree seems to listen,
the fir tree to wait: and both
without
impatience: - they
give no thought to
the little people
beneath them
devoured by their
impatience and
their curiosity.
- Friedrich
Nietzsche, *The
Wanderer and His
Shadow*, # 176.

COME GROW WITH US!

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