

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Fall 2006 • Serving All The South Plains Tree Needs Since 1978 • (806) 785-8733

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

On September 6th, the Lubbock community, the green industry and many of us individually, lost a dear friend, a great resource and, in many cases, a mentor. Roberta Kershner Davis lost her battle with cancer and is now planting trees and flowers in heaven. She will be sorely missed. I want to dedicate this love letter to Roberta, because she was truly loved. I met Roberta about 27 years ago, and have loved and admired her since. I served on the Arboretum Board with her for 9 years and she truly served. If you knew her, you couldn't help but love and admire her. The family suggested donations to the arboretum.

Isn't rain nice? The last week of August and first 2 weeks of September, I had more at my house than in the previous 11 months. It was just in the nick of time. All my weeds were just about to die. Not mention trees, shrubs, lawn and flowers.

Many people call me at various times of the day with questions and many begin with the statement that they hate to bother me. On Friday, September 15, we will begin 'Tree Talk for Texans', a weekly radio show on KRFE AM 580. So if you have questions, but don't want to bother me, please call. I'll be there every Friday morning with Jim Stewart, a fixture on Lubbock radio, to answer all of your tree and landscape questions. If we can't answer them on the spot, we will try to get the answer by the next show.

Do you just love the Christmas season? I do. I love the Christmas carols, the warm greetings and the Christmas lighting. For years, TLC has lit trees and houses for Christmas. Our favorite job for years was lighting a tree on 43rd Street just off of Indiana Avenue. The last year we lit that tree, we put 35,000 lights in it. What fun. I was sure sad when they sold the house. We would love to light up your holidays.

TLC Update . . .

Evidently there is something about Lubbock and climbing trees that just gets in your blood. Colby Hurd tried to leave Lubbock and arboriculture and managed to for a couple of years, but the trees just kept beckoning and he has come back to TLC and is looking forward to loving your trees. Welcome back to Colby and La Tavia.

'I love a parade' is such an uplifting song, but nowhere as uplifting as the real thing. Tree Loving Care recently won first place commercial division in the Wolfforth Harvest Festival Parade. The theme of the

parade was American Heroes. Michael Majors, 7, in full climbing gear rescued a stuffed kitten for about a mile along the parade route.



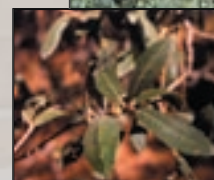
Wolfforth Harvest Festival Parade



Tree Of The Quarter

This quarter's tree, Arizona Oak, *Quercus arizonica* is found throughout central Mexico, in far west Texas and up into central Arizona. This tree is in the white oak group and very drought tolerant. With the concerns that we have about oak wilt and our diminishing water quality and quantity, we need to give more attention to some of the sometimes more obscure trees that are either native or adapted to our environment, even though they may not be readily available. Many of these trees could be brought in, but from the nurseryman's stand point, if people aren't buying these trees or even asking about them, why should he bring them in? You may have to go to more obscure nurseries such as Gunsight Mountain Nursery near Uvalde, Texas or Mountain States Nursery in Arizona.

Arizona Oak grows to 65' height with a trunk of up to 3' diameter in its native range. It is found primarily in canyons and on the rocky slopes near those canyons. In our landscapes, it will probably get to 50'.



Arizona Oak

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com



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Give Your Trees TLC

There are 13 essential nutrients that plants get from the soil, but that is by no means the end of the story. What form the element is in, how available the nutrient is, pH and organic matter in the soil are only some of the factors in how well a plant does. At Tree Loving Care, we address all of these issues with our Plant Health Care, Weed Control and Soil Management Plans.

Our Certified Arborists understand these issues and would be glad to assess the condition of your plants and soil. They are well trained in insect and disease management as well.

The Plant Health Care Program can give you peace of mind because a plant health care technician will make an assessment of the plants in your entire landscape on

a regular basis, checking for proper soil moisture, insect and disease and environmental damage. The technician will manage your irrigation system for you, changing the settings as the season changes. One of the most commonly found and most damaging problems in the urban landscape is over watering.

Soil management includes up to 4 applications per year of the proper nutrients and in useable forms.

Of course, no one wants a lot of weeds in their lawn. Tree Loving Care can help with controlling those weeds without harming your trees. Call 785-8733 today to schedule an appointment. Optimum weed control includes 3 applications of pre-emerge herbicide and it is best to begin these applications in the fall to control weeds that germinate in fall and early winter. We will also work with your lawn service to establish proper mowing heights.

Most trees are at about their heaviest in the fall. This can lead to broken limbs, especially if we get rain, snow or ice. Remember also



Ralph Vaughn applying weed control

that God intended for leaves to be the insulating blanket for the winter. If you must rake your leaves, please bring them to TLC for composting instead of putting them in the dumpster. Of course, you can always call us to have one of our crews remove them for you. You will be surprised at how fast they disappear and we promise they won't go in the dumpster.

Critters and Cruds

Kermes Scale should be hatching any day. This is a problem on Live Oaks and several species of Red Oaks. Eriococcus scale continues to be a problem and can be controlled most of the time with a soil treatment of Merit.

There are few insect and disease problems that exhibit themselves in the fall, but good root growth and proper nutrition in the fall is very important for good plant growth the rest of the year. TLC's fall fertilization satisfies these needs.

Remember all the fruit that you thought was such a nuisance ... Tree Loving Care can solve that problem by injecting Pischer, a plant hormone into your tree to cause the fruit not to set. This product needs to be applied in the fall for best results. This also gives a larger window of opportunity than spraying Florel and we don't have the problem of drift.