

Love Letter from . . .

# Tree Loving Care

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



## Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Fall is my favorite time of year. Fall got here a little early and brought some rain with it. If these conditions continue, we should have a little more fall color in the trees than many years. The red and yellow fall colors have been in the leaves all year, but as the green of chlorophyll begins to break down, the other colors begin to be more visible. It is the trees beginning to tire from all the hard work (chloroplasts full of chlorophyll is where the work occurs) they have been doing all summer and they are about to take a long winter nap. The only thing missing is a bedtime story. In early August, I went to Fort Worth for the [International Society of Arboriculture](#) annual conference. I have been to several ISA Conferences around the world, but this one was the first one in Texas. The Texas delegation did itself proud. It was an excellent conference, chocked full of information; all the latest and greatest information on current research and the newest gadgets and technology. The advances in science and technology sometime makes my head spin. It was also great to visit with old and new friends from around the world. Sometime the conversations at the end of the day are as enlightening as the educational sessions.

I rarely mention a specific client in this letter, but I am compelled to say thanks to Penny Pipken for her efforts for improving the [Lubbock Memorial Arboretum](#). It was at her request that I decided to get back more involved in the Arboretum. She graciously offered a matching grant to prune trees in the Arboretum as a kick start to rejuvenation of the trees in particular and the Arboretum as a whole and [Tree Loving Care](#) accepted the challenge. Our crews ended up pruning 7 trees along University Ave on August 19th, providing 5 man days of TLC.



The next phase of this effort is a Work Day on November 5th, in celebration of Texas Arbor Day. The work day will focus on trees in the 8 acres that are fenced. This area is east of the Arboretum Interpretive Center and the Garden and Art Center. So far the effort has produced commitments from 6 tree care companies to send arborists to address some of the dire needs of some of the trees and shrub plantings in the Arboretum. The work that requires special skills and equipment will be done by experienced arborists, but there will be all kinds of things that anyone can do. Even if it is just taking water to the workers, there will be things to do. If you would like to join in or, in any way, support the Arboretum, come and join us. Bring your gloves, tools and checkbooks. You will be richly rewarded.

Christmas is just around the corner. We are already preparing. Renewal notices will be going out within a couple of weeks. If you would like to spread some Christmas cheer and be the envy of the neighborhood, let **Christmas Décor by Tree Loving Care** light up your life. Christmas Décor is the largest holiday lighting system in the world and Tree Loving Care is a franchise holder. We are not the franchise holder in Ector and Midland counties. Residential decorating is protected area, so if you are in those 2 counties, contact Turf Specialties.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist Tx0117A

## Tree Of The Quarter

Honey Mesquite, *Prosopis glandulosa*, is as often cussed as it is discussed around the coffee shops in ranch country. There is still (and probably always will be) great disagreement about whether it has been here a long time or is a more recent invader from points south. Many believe that it was a Mexico and Central American native and made its way north and got spread around with the cattle drives in the last half of the 1800's. Regardless, it does get to be a fairly large tree in areas that receive enough water. I think the largest one in Lubbock now (due to construction, we have lost 3 other large ones in Lubbock over the last 20 years) is the one in front of the Lubbock Garden and Art Center. That tree is about 18" trunk diameter and about 25' tall with a canopy spread of about 40'. This particular specimen was moved about 33 years ago from a ranch in the Cross Timbers region as a 3" tree. That means an addition of approximately 1/4" of wood each year. That is pretty fast for a Mesquite.



Honey Mesquite  
(*Prosopis glandulosa*)



James Tuttle  
Cell 806.789.8733

9821 Highway 62 • Wolfforth, TX 79382-5100  
james.tuttle@solarwindenergycompany.com



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



# TREE LOVING CARE

9821 US 62 • Wolfforth, Texas 79382

Listen to  
**'Tree Talk for Texas' on  
KWEL AM 1070 • FM 107.1**  
every Thursdays morning  
at 9:00 a.m.

Proud and  
Active Member of:



## GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Tree Loving Care arborists are busy giving TLC to as many trees as possible. Often, at this time of year, this is by injecting nutrients and soil activators into the soil, promoting soil life. In a healthy forest soil, there is plenty of organic matter and plenty of micro-organisms. Micorrhizal fungi have a symbiotic relationship with many trees. They 'infect' roots, taking carbohydrates from the tree, but in return, greatly expand the roots uptake area and take in much more nutrients that the tree would ever be able to get without them. This mutually beneficial relationship is very common in forest soils, but in urban soils, needs a little promoting. That is the focus of our fertilization program. Call one of our Arborists today to schedule your fall fertilization.

## CRITTERS AND CRUDS

At the ISA Conference, there was a half day of talks on Oak Wilt. This is a devastating disease that has been ravaging oaks in Texas since at least the 1950's and, perhaps, since the 1930's.

Unfortunately, there have been no breakthroughs in managing the disease. That means that management is still expensive and the disease



**Aphid Infestation**

is still as devastating. It also means that macro injections of Alamo are still the only chemical control that has a recognized protocol.

Aphids are very active right now, as they normally are in the fall, on many trees and shrubs. As leaves begin to senesce and chlorophyll (the green stuff) begins to break down, the leaf becomes relatively higher in nitrogen. This makes the leaf more attractive to the Aphid and, hence, lots of honeydew. The Lacewings, which are predators on Aphids, are active

also. As happens in almost all populations, there is a lag time between the pest population growing and the predator population catching up. If control of the Aphid is necessary, inject, don't spray an insecticide to control the pest. Spraying is indiscriminant and will kill the beneficial.

## TLC UPDATE

Tree Loving Care will also have an Arbor Day project in Alpine. This project will consist of pruning a very large Cottonwood adjacent to the amphitheater at Kokernot Lodge. This tree is on Sul Ross University campus and will consist of removing deadwood from one of the larger specimens in the area. At Tree Loving Care, we believe in planting trees, but we also believe in taking care of what we have.

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