

Love Letter from . . .

# Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733  
Fall 2023 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

## Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

I know no one needs me to tell them, but it has been hot and dry. As of last week, Lubbock has recorded 50 days of temperatures 100 degrees or more. Midland County is officially the driest County and Ector is second.

As a result, there are a lot of dead trees and a lot that are on their last gasp. Just think how you would feel if you were happy in a community of your friends and siblings somewhere in Central Texas or Tennessee and you were suddenly jerked up by your roots and hauled to the West Texas desert, plunked down in a hole that barely fit your root ball with your tall crown waving in the wind in the middle of a parking lot or in a new neighborhood. Then someone puts gravel, plastic grass, or worse, real grass over your root zone and gave you three table spoons of salt water every day when it was 108.

That is what we sometimes do to trees. Sometimes, we nurture them for forty years and get them to maturity and then forget them when they are large and need a lot of water and we are completely oblivious to the fact that it hasn't really rained but once in a year. Please water your trees thoroughly. It is cheaper to water them than to have us remove the tree and plant a new tree.

After having judged the Tx Tree Climbing Championship for decades, I had the great privilege of judging at the International Tree Climbing Championship in August 2023. In Albuquerque, NM of all places. Don't get me wrong, I like Albuquerque, but it isn't exactly known for its trees. Last years competition was in Copenhagen, two years from now it will be in New Zealand so I was a little surprised to see it would be in Albuquerque.

But to my surprise, there is a small park near downtown that has about 20 large elms, large enough to pull off an excellent climbing experience. I was one of 5 scoring judges on Work Climb, one of the preliminary events that I have judged at the Tx competition many times. There was a total of 16 people on our judging team.

There were 47 competitors in the men's and 37 in the women's divisions from 34 countries. Every climber was already a champion from somewhere, having already won their way there. It is tree climbing at a whole different level. If you would like to know more about the competition, search you tube or go [itccisa.com](http://itccisa.com)

Remember that Christmas is just around the corner. If we have been lighting your home for the holidays, you should be getting an updated proposal soon. If you would like to have one of our decorators come by to measure your home and give you a proposal, call the Lubbock office at 806-785-8733 or the Midland office at 432-620-8733

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

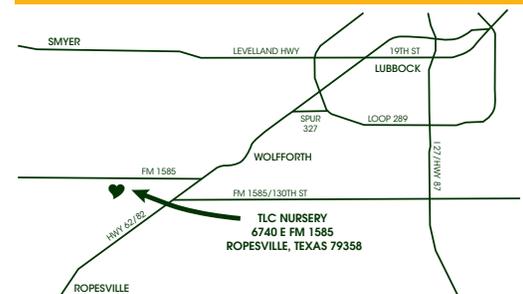


## Tree Of The Quarter

**Chinquapin Oak** (sometimes incorrectly Chinkapin Oak) or *Quercus muehlenbergii* was for a time also called Chestnut Oak due to the undulating leaf margin. It grows to be a fairly large tree with a very broad range. It doesn't dominant any of its ranges. It grows more often on upper slopes, especially south facing, ridges and limestone outcrops. It tolerates a broad range of soil types and pH. And it is disease and insect resistant. All of that makes this a great landscape tree for our area. It has been in the nursery trade for a while and it is becoming more popular as people learn more about it. It is readily available in the trade.



**Chinquapin Oak**  
(*Quercus muehlenbergii*)



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# TREE LOVING CARE

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## **GIVE YOUR TREES TLC**

At the last Second Saturday presentation at Lubbock Arboretum, Brant Baugh, the Lubbock County Agent advised the audience that the pan evaporation rate for July and August was 1.5 inches per day. That will literally suck the water out of the ground and plants. Wood chip mulch will help conserve the ground moisture. However, at that rate, that won't save you if you don't water at all.

## **CRITTERS AND CRUDS**

We are still getting a lot of calls about Elm Leaf Beetle. This is the insect that eats most of the foliage of Siberian Elm by this time every year. They are a perennial problem, but one that has already passed for this year. They have already done all the damage they will do. They are already hunkered down for the winter. But, they will be back next year so put it on your calendar for March or April or let us know that you had the problem and we will send you an email in March as a reminder. Pine Tip

Moth has about the same schedule and attacks young Afghan Pine. The biggest insect problem for fall is already building population. That is aphids. Their primary hosts are Pecans and Oaks. Give one of our Certified Arborists a call to assess your trees. Remember, it is easier to solve an insect problem when it is new and small.

## **TLC UPDATE**

James Tuttle went to the Texas Tree Climbing Championship in Austin in June. He served as Head Judge of Throw Line, one of the preliminary events. Throw Line is how a climber sets the climbing line to ascend the tree. This was followed by the International Tree Climbing Championship and International Conference in August. Welcome to Chris Hoover to the TLC family. Chris is from Pennsylvania and he has 20 years of experience climbing and bucket truck doing trees for several tree care companies in the NE. Sure glad he found a west Texas woman. Chris will be testing soon for his Arborist Certification.

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