

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Winter 2013 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

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'Tree Talk for Texas'
9:00 a.m. Thursdays on
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Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

SPRING HAS SPRUNG, and in most areas, with barely a drop of rain. The drought has not been broken. The Farmer's Almanac forecast for a wetter winter seems to have missed us by several hundred miles, but the colder part sure got us. Actually, to their credit, they do have disclaimer that accuracy within a few hundred miles IS accurate.

Jeff Floyd and I recently had the opportunity to address Midland City Council on the importance of water conservation and proper way to water plants. One of the main messages we tried to get across was that deep thorough watering is much more desirable than frequent shallow watering. **The only tree that needs to be watered every week is a newly planted tree.** Thanks to Ashley at the MRT for the article and helping to get this message out to the public

Another season that is over (except for the runoffs) is the political primary season. Those of you in the Lubbock might have heard some of our radio commercials about the subject. We have been running 5 second commercials on KFYO that say, 'If you have a tree that is tall enough to hang a politician, PRESERVE IT, call Tree Loving Care'. The other says, 'If you have a broken tree limb from hanging a politician, call Tree Loving Care at 785-TREE'. The only people that were meant to be offended by that were the people that want to be offended. Hope it isn't you. If so, I apologize in advance for next political season, because we will probably do it some more.

Those of you that have known me for a long time, know that I love my God, this country, history and politics almost as much as I love trees. As a matter of fact, I have made a deal with Craig Anderson, my co-host for Tree Talk for Texas on KWEL in Midland, to run together for some political office next cycle. We have not selected the race, but we have agreed to change our names to run. My name will change to 'None Of The Above' and his will change to 'Same Old Thing'. No one need to apply for the positions of our campaign treasurer. We won't need one. I think I will get at least 65% of the vote for obvious reasons and he will get at least 10% just because he is tall and has nice hair (at least by comparison to mine). If anyone has a preference for which race we should run in, let us know. Bear in mind, if it is below a state wide race, one of us might have to move to be legal. So let us know, then VOTE EARLY, VOTE OFTEN.

In the meantime, go water your trees while you ponder the possibilities. Ponder for a long time, the soil is very dry.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborists TX0117A

Tree Of The Quarter

Rusty Blackhaw, *Viburnum rufidulum*, is a small tree native from east Texas to the Cross Timbers near Abilene. It can grow on almost any soil and in the western part of its range, often found on limestone hill sides. It can grow in full sun or as an understory tree to large shrub. It is tolerant of high heat and low water. All of this makes it an ideal plant for a small back yard, especially for along alley fences under and near power lines.

Its flowers are in clusters and fairly showy, although not as showy as its cousin, the Snowball Viburnum. Finding this plant in the nursery trade may be a little difficult. Most of the plants that are not used enough fall in that category. If they were more available, they would be used more. So, bug your nurseryman. It may take a while.



Rusty Blackhaw
(*Viburnum rufidulum*)



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TREE LOVING CARE

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Return Service Requested

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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Tree Loving Care covers a territory of at least 41 counties of west Texas and all of that area is in the grip of one of the most, if not the most severe droughts ever. It is very important to water your trees deeply and thoroughly.

Most of the soils in this area are mineral soils, containing very little organic matter. The addition of organic matter to soils is a great way to create a soil environment that is closer to the forest soil that the tree evolved in. Organic matter promotes soil life, it supports the micro flora and fauna that is normally found in a healthy forest soil.

Tree Loving Care recycles all organic material that we generate in our arboricultural business. We process the wood chips by re-grinding them in a tub grinder and depositing the chips in a long row about head high. We then add water to maintain a slightly moist or damp condition and periodically turn or stir the pile. Wood rot fungi break down the cellulose and recycle the nutrients. This process is called composting. Well composted wood chip mulch is a great addition to the root zone of our landscape plants. Mulch conserves moisture, moderates soil temperature extremes and promotes soil life. We sell compost for \$25 per cubic yard, loaded on your truck or trailer.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Spring is a very busy time of year for all critters in the tree world. They have only a few months to complete a whole cycle of life. Over the next several months, they will be busy eating, sucking and chewing on your trees, laying eggs and in many cases, doing all that for several generations this year.

Especially for those critters that have multiple generations per year, it is important to knock that first generation back some. It is also important to monitor early and control early for any insect population. Problems are always easier to manage when they are small. If you wait until the insect and other critters have damaged your trees enough that the damage is very obvious to the average homeowner, often it is a little late for anyone, even us, to do much about it. It is time now to do systemic treatments for such things as Pine Tip Moth, Elm Leaf Beetle, Galls on Oaks and many others.



Elm Leaf Beetle

Treating Oaks for acorns management is also just over the horizon. This needs to be done when they are in full flower (the little 'fuzzies')

and that will range from late March-April. to have Call one of our Certified Arborists your trees checked. The Lubbock number is 806-785-TREE (8733) and the Permian Basin number is 432-620-TREE (8733).

TLC UPDATE

Getting the Midland office open and running has not gone as smoothly as desired but Tommy Schooler and his family have now moved to Midland. Tommy has settled into the management of the crew in the Permian Basin. The shop building is under construction.

Part of the construction of the shop includes installation of a water treatment system. The quality of the water in the Permian Basin is a big part of the difficulty of growing plants in the Permian Basin. For years, TLC has been addressing these problems. We have made a decision to invest in treating the water we use in our organic fertilization program. It just didn't make sense to use salty water in our fertilization program when one problem we are addressing is salt in the soil.

The 2014 Texas Tree Climbing Championship is coming up soon!!! Come join us in Landa Park in New Braunfels on May 16-17. Come cheer on the local team.

SOLARWIND ENERGY

As many of you know, Tree Loving Care was Tuttle Landscape Company, Inc. for many years before changing the name. A couple of years ago, TLC, Inc. bought the assets of South Plains Wind Power and began providing solar and wind energy for homeowners under the name, SolarWind Energy Company.

SolarWind Energy Company is pleased to now offer affordable, made-in-USA wind turbines from Pika Energy. Pika builds high-performance, quiet wind turbines to meet the power needs of homeowners, businesses, and schools. The 1.8kW Pika T701 turbine is engineered for long-life and abusive wind conditions, with innovative features such as injection-molded blades and a backup safety brake. Pika's unique REBus™ DC Microgrid technology lets you efficiently combine wind and solar to create a hybrid energy system.



Solar Turbine

Call SolarWind Energy Company for a free site assessment for a Pika Energy system. SolarWind Energy Co is experienced in small wind turbine installation and interconnection.

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com