

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Winter 2011 • Serving All The South Plains Tree Needs Since 1978 • (806) 785-8733

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

All of us at Tree Loving Care want to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Christmas light season has been fun. I hope that all of you that can, still come by and see our animated light display in person. It is located just west of Wolfforth on US 62. You can sit in the comfort of your car, tune into our FM signal and watch the lights being directed by the music. You can also click on the link and feel free



Miracles Parade Float

to share the link with your friends. The display includes our float from the Miracles Parade, which was Saturday, December 10th. Christmas Décor by Tree Loving Care is supporting Hospice of Lubbock by beginning what we expect to be a long term relationship. We erected their

Light Up a Life Christmas Tree in front of Haverty's Furniture at 74th and Quaker and we urge you to stop by, click on the following link, www.hospiceoflubbock.org or stop by their office at 3702 21st and Louisville to buy an angel ornament in support of their cause. Hospice of Lubbock has such a needed ministry. Please help. It has been a great year overall. We have managed to survive the hottest and windiest summer and driest year in recorded history and, hopefully, so have your trees. Winter is normally a very dry time of year, so please water your trees. This needs to be done only a couple times over the winter, but it needs to be thorough. Let the water run long enough to get the water at least 2 feet deep. This will take at least the equivalent of 2" of rain if your soil is dry. To do this with a sprinkler system, generally means running it for at least an hour. Many sprinkler systems are designed to deliver an inch of water every 30 minutes of run time. I suggest that you verify your sprinkler by checking it every few years. We call it a 'can' test. Throw a few tuna fish cans out in the lawn and see how long it takes to fill them up.

We have, so far, also survived the worst economy and the most explosive growth of government in my lifetime and the greatest erosion of our freedoms in our history as a nation. Please join me in re-reading your constitution and get involved and become educated about what our leaders are actually doing. Pay attention to what they do more than what they say. And I'm not talking about only the national level. This explosive growth of government is pervasive at all levels, including right down to the local school boards and everything in between. Whatever your political philosophy is, dig deep, pay attention to what government is doing and be an informed voter. Don't tune out just because you get tired of politics. It's too important.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

Listen to
'Tree Talk for Texas'
9:00 a.m. Fridays
on KRFE AM 580

Tree Of The Quarter

Since we are now in the Chihuahuan desert, it is only appropriate that the tree of the quarter be a tree from the heart of the desert. Texas Madrone, *Arbutus xalapensis*, is also known as Naked Indian, Lady's Leg and Naked Lady due to its exfoliating bark. The outer bark sloughs exposing the very smooth bark underneath that ranges in color from shades of red to orange to white. The yellow-orange berries are gorgeous as well. The leaves are glossy darker green on the upper side, a little paler on the underneath side.

The Texas Madrone is a small to medium tree that does well only with excellent drainage. Most of our landscapes provide that very well, only landscapes near low areas or at the edges of playa lakes or where the clay from the playas have been moved up hill. It will grow in a variety of soil types and does well with little to no supplemental irrigation once established. It is native in the Big Bend area which gets about 1/3 our average rainfall.



Texas Madrone

Visit our website
at
www.treelovingcare.com



TREE LOVING CARE

9821 Brownfield Hwy • Wolfforth, Texas 79382

Return Service Requested



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Give Your Trees TLC

The entire region is still in a severe drought. We have had about 1/3 our average moisture, which should easily break the all time lowest rainfall total for a calendar year after getting less than 3" for the last half of last year. All of this means desert. The northeastern line of the Chihuahuan Desert has moved and we are in it.

A few days ago, we were on the verge of a lot of damage from ice accumulation. We only needed a temperature drop of a couple degrees and we could have had a lot of breakage in trees. Be prepared when weather is moving in. Ice can build up on branches and double the weight of a branch in hours. Sometimes the only thing you need to do to prevent severe damage is to take a long stick and tap branches to knock some of the ice off. However, DON'T stand directly under the branch. There might be more than just ice that gets down the back of your shirt.



Broken Tree

Critters and Cruds

There is little insect or disease activity in the dormant season. Plants are dormant, therefore not much for the critters or cruds to feed on. It kinda makes sense. On the other hand, since there isn't much feeding, the critters that are around, if they aren't hunkered down too tight, can be more easily killed, in many cases. That is why dormant oils work as well as they do. Dormant oils are very broad spectrum (meaning they kill a lot of different kinds of critters) and have little effect on non-target pests. Call one of our Certified Arborists to ask how Tree Loving Care can keep your insect problems from being out of control next season with a winter application of dormant oil.

TLC Update

James Tuttle taught a class in November to many arborists and pest control operators on Critters and Cruds of west Texas. One class was in Lubbock and then another the next day in Wichita Falls. It was rewarding to see the level of interest in learning to effectively identify and manage insect and disease problems that we have in this area of the state.

Colby Hurd, - Certified Arborist, Butch Lathey, - Certified Arborist and James Evans from Tree Loving Care attended.

Last month, Tree Loving Care purchased a new aerial lift that has some amazing capabilities. This lift is the epitome of 'dynamite sometimes comes in small packages'. This lift is small enough and compact enough to go through a normal entry door on a normal house, which means it will go through just about any backyard gate, turn on a dime with little, if any, turf damage and has just about the same reach as our large bucket truck.

This gives us the ability to work much safer and much faster, especially on really dangerous trees in back yards. It is dual powered, normally running on a gasoline engine, but will also run on electricity. This allows us to take it inside a building with no fumes, do work that would normally require scaffolding and be gone in less time than it might



Aerial Lift

take to set up scaffolding. According to the manufacturer, it will even climb stairs. We haven't tried that yet.