



Southern Chapter News

SPRING
2015

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

What's up with lichens on trees and shrubs?

By Beau Brodbeck, Tree Fund Liaison

When gardeners see lichen growing on the trunks and branches of trees and shrubs, they usually get worried. After all, something is growing on their tree. In fact, most people want to blame these frilly blue-green organisms for any tree health problems. This isn't surprising because they are often seen growing on plants in poor health. However, lichens are not the problem, but rather a sign of poor tree health.

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Upcoming Events

ALABAMA

May 7, 2015

The Alabama Cooperative Extension will host the "Alabama Invasive Plant Council Annual Conference." Atmore. Contact Beau Brodbeck at (251) 259-6507.

GEORGIA

May 7, 2015

The Georgia Urban Forestry Council will host the "GUFC Second Quarterly Program: Urban Soils - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." Athens-Clarke County Public Library in Athens. Contact Mary Lynne Beckley at (404) 377-0404.

June 10, 2015

Trees Atlanta will host "Trees and Construction: Building for Long Term Survivability." Atlanta. Contact Kate Baltzell at (404) 681-4897.

TENNESSEE

November 10-11, 2015

The University of Tennessee - TSU Extension will present the "2015 West Tennessee Commercial Horticulture Expo." Memphis. Contact Karla Kean at (931) 648-5725.

Save the date!



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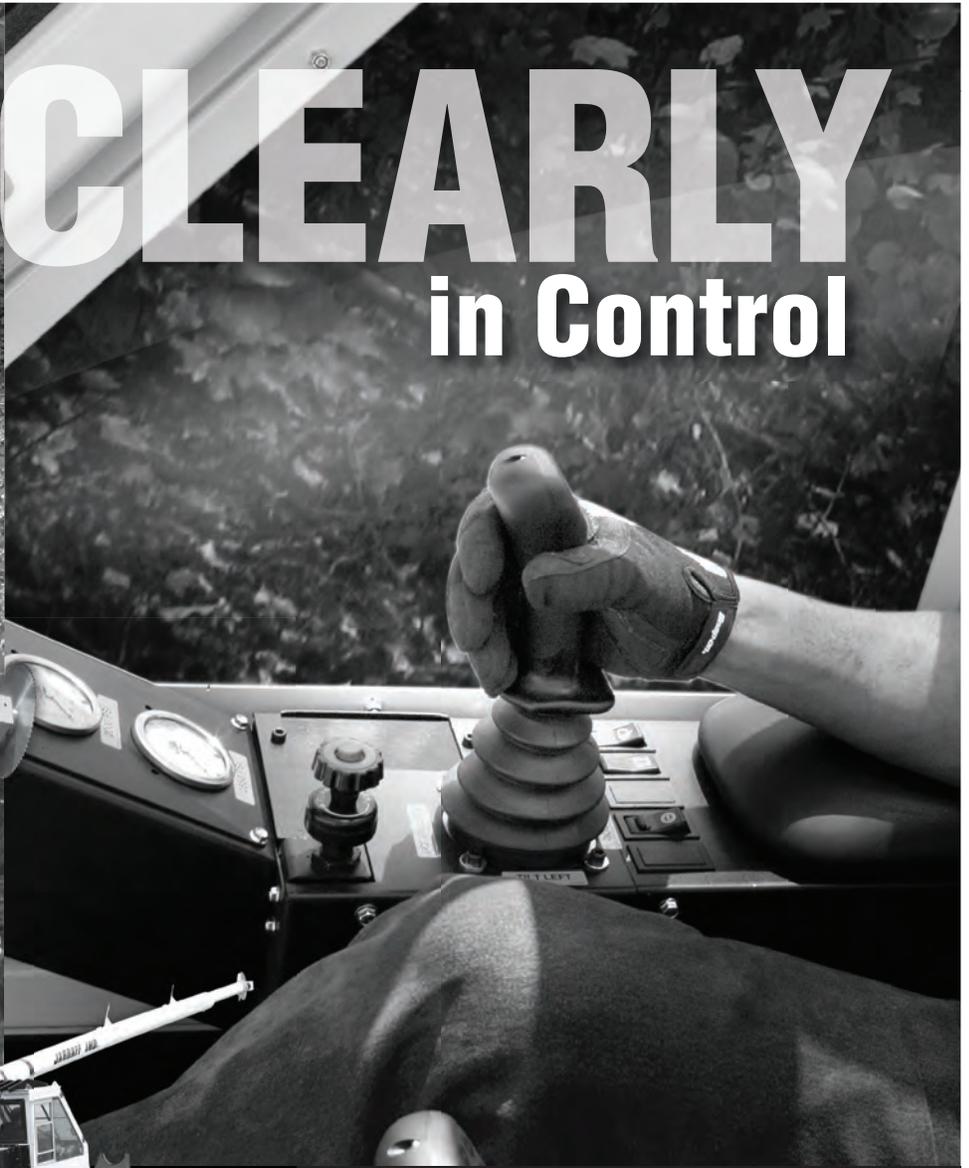


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Congratulations to the 2015 ISA Southern Chapter TCC winners!

1st Place (ArborMaster Packet Winner) Dustin Urbanovsky
2nd Place Jeremy Williams 3rd Place Aquilino Amador Cruz

2015 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package

The Southern Chapter ISA is pleased to announce the 2015 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package for the Tree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the Chapter's 2015 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event.

This climbing kit is being offered to each chapter champion. The package is intended to help equip the chapter representatives for the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Competition.

Each prize package includes:

- Arborist Technical Helmet by Petzl, Husqvarna Composite Multi-Purpose Ax, and Husqvarna Technical Pro Zipper Apron Wrap Chap
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Lack of education is bad, but misinformation is worse

by Miguel Cebollero, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Director

Many years ago when I was serving as president for the now extinct Puerto Rico Professional Arborist Association, I received a call from a man from the southern city of Ponce. He introduced himself by his full name and profession, and stated he was part of a local action community group.

He launched into a description of the actions taken by the group led by him to halt the removal of a *Ficus benjamina* which was part of a city street reconstruction project assigned to a private contractor. Since I was born and raised in Ponce, I knew this tree's location, growing in the backyard of a private property just adjacent to the street. He described in detail how he and his son jumped into one of the construction loaders and managed to interrupt the work. By the time he contacted me, the work had been delayed for several days, with much money lost and schedules disrupted. As a group, they were demanding that the city halt the removal plans and, instead, transplant the tree.

He asked me for advice. I began explaining him that transplanting was not a natural process, and that transplanted trees are subjected to a great deal of stress. I talked about how not all trees are good candidates for transplanting. I told him that this was not an endangered species, not a historic or landmark tree, not a rare species at all — in fact, a very common and fast growing one. I continued, explaining to him why some trees, after having been planted in the wrong place and when in conflict with infrastructure/utilities, sometimes must be removed because there is no other viable option.

Since he was in the legal profession, I asked him to think about removal to avoid legal claims. He replied that he had no problem living with trees causing damage. His final words to me were, "If it was up to you, you will cut all trees around cities!" He hung up on me, and I have never heard from him again to this day. Not even a "Thanks for your time and your professional opinion." I guess he didn't hear my words, or was not interested in being informed and educated, or he didn't get back the support he was looking for.

continued on page 11

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Photo: Brian Bixler. Arborist: J. David Driver (the X man).

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This man and his group pushed so hard that city authorities ended up hiring a local company with an ISA Certified Arborist to transplant the tree. After removing more than 60% of the canopy ... digging a root ball crucified with all sorts of pipes ... the expense of human resources during an entire night ... the use of municipal police, public works personnel ... \$50,000 charge by the arborist company ... the tree was transplanted.

It died within the first year after being moved.

Though it would have been nice, I wasn't really expecting a call from the misguided tree hugger, saying, "I wish I had taken the time to listen to you when you were just trying to educate me." As my son in-law once said, "What do you expect from a horse, a kiss or a kick?"

We all must continue to promote arboriculture education at whatever level we can: as a one-on-one teacher with each potential client; as residents within our communities; at professional groups with architects and engineers; with municipal and city personnel directly involved in tree care; and, last but not least, with people like this lawyer ... and people like the ones that pushed so hard that we had to move our recent Tree Climbing Competition to a different location in Mobile.

Sometimes people not only lack the right information, but resist education and lead others with misinformation. So, don't forget this: Lack of information is bad, but misinformation is worse.

Let's keep our educational mission rolling, and let's not give up the fight against the "untrained horses."

2015-2016 Southern Chapter Officers

Executive Director: Dwayne Carter

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Lichens continued from page 1

Lichens are organisms composed of a fungus and a green or blue-green alga growing together. The fungus in this mutually beneficial relationship absorbs water and minerals from both the air and structure to which they are attached. The alga uses photosynthesis to convert these materials into carbohydrates and vitamins. Lichens are extremely tough and grow in some of the harshest environments on earth, from deserts to the arctic tundras.

Lichens come in three distinct varieties that are common in our area. One grows flat, looking like a white, gray or blue-green splotch with little raised definition. The second variety forms leaf-like folds that are frilly. The third develops branch-like structures, which are often long and hairy or coral-like. While most lichens that occur on trees are a gray-green in color, they can come in a variety of colors ranging from dark brown to yellows and even bright oranges. In south Alabama, it is not uncommon to see orange and almost salmon-colored lichens on live oaks.

Lichens on trees and shrubs occur most frequently on trunks and branches that are exposed to full sun. As a result, trees that have thinning leaves or missing branches will have more lichens on the exposed inner branches.

Here is where many misconceptions about lichens are born. We see declining health in trees which have thinning leaves and more sunlight reaching inner branches, and, thus, more lichens. We then assume the lichens are causing the tree's decline and seek out costly chemical controls that are not addressing the tree's problem. Lichens are not parasitic like mistletoe, but are opportunists that are a sign of declining tree health.

Furthermore, trees that vigorously grow will regularly slough-off bark making it difficult for lichens to become attached. This is especially the case

Lichens on main trunk (cover picture) are nothing to worry about, but lichens on the young growing tips (left) are a cause for concern.

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with smaller branches at plant extremities. Lichens on exposed tree trunks are not uncommon and should not raise concerns. It is lichens growing on the younger and faster growing outer branches that should raise concern that our trees are unhealthy and need care.

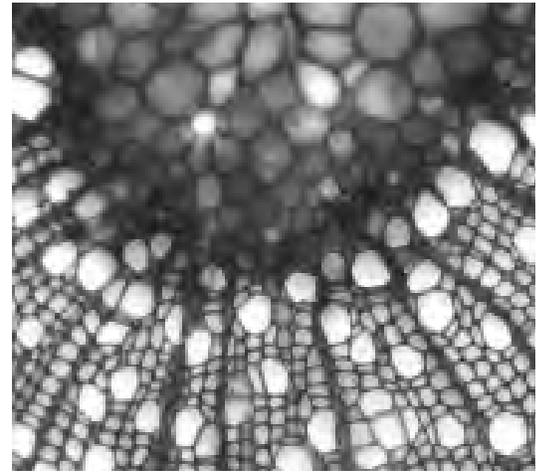
The problem with your shrubs or trees may be poor soil fertility, root disease or circling and girdling roots. These problems are often below ground and difficult to immediately identify.

Short-term recommendations:

1. If the plant or shrub was container grown and planted within the last three years, carefully dig around the base of the plant and look for circling or girdling roots. Girdling roots will often choke the main trunk or other large roots. If these are found, use a sharp saw to cut them. If the shape of the pot is still discernable in the soil, remove the plant and start over.
2. Take a soil test. Soil test kits are available at your local extension office. Lime and fertilize based on soil test results.
3. Look for any fruiting fungus at the base of your tree; Their appearance can range from clusters of mushrooms to woody disk-shaped growths called conks attached to the base of the tree. Diagnose these growths to determine whether they are harmful to the tree.

Long-term management of declining tree health:

1. Mulch the trees and shrubs. Mulch should be applied to a depth of 2-3” to the tree’s drip-line with care to not pile mulch at the tree’s trunk.
2. Water trees during periods of extreme drought.
3. Consider removing trees that are not responding to the above treatments.



This image shows a section of a poplar tree that has had its genes modified so cells divide quicker.

Bigger, faster growing trees

Scientists at The University of Manchester have discovered a way to make trees grow bigger and faster, which could increase supplies of renewable resources and help trees cope with the effects of climate change.

In the study, published in Current Biology, the team successfully manipulated two genes in poplar trees in order to make them grow larger and more quickly than usual. Read more at www.sciencedaily.com.























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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE - SOUTHERN CHAPTER

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014

	OPERATING FUND	SCHOLARSHIP FUND
CASH BALANCE, January 1, 2014	\$ 404,448.84	\$ 53,387.58
RECEIPTS		
Chapter Dues	49,380.00	
Publications and Sales	10,352.72	
Newsletter	7,390.00	
Interest Earned on Investments	578.94	203.84
Interest Earned on Deposit Account	93.86	
Certification Exam	21,210.00	
Recertification	32,425.00	
Golf Income	3,820.00	
Shipping Income	62.20	
Workshops	8,336.10	
2014 Southern Chapter Conference	164,223.00	
2015 Southern Chapter Conference	72,657.10	
TCC Trailer Advertisement	1,000.00	
Transfer to Scholarship CD	-	-
Total Receipts	371,528.92	203.84
Total Receipts and Balance	775,977.76	53,591.42
DISBURSEMENTS		
Tour De Trees - Donation	5,000.00	
Treefund	1,500.00	
Postage and Shipping	7,558.61	
Printing and Office Supplies	4,085.83	
Office Equipment	388.60	
Board Meetings/Travel	33,742.67	
Insurance	750.00	
Contracted Services	64,414.99	
Scholarship Award	2,000.00	
Telephone - Fax	2,112.41	
Publications and Sales	6,374.61	
Newsletter	11,946.91	
Exhibit Management Service Commissions	18,285.00	
2014 Southern Chapter Conference Expense	144,079.97	
2015 Southern Chapter Conference Expense	3,789.04	
2016 Southern Chapter Conference Expense	900.00	
Miscellaneous	2,795.06	
Master Card/Visa Charges	7,524.15	
TCC Trailer Expenses	7,277.24	
Workshops	4,771.47	
Total Disbursements	329,296.56	-
CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2014	\$ 446,681.20	\$ 53,591.42

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE - SOUTHERN CHAPTER

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014

	OPERATING FUND	SCHOLARSHIP FUND
CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2014		
Checking account - (non-interest bearing) - BB&T Bank, Mount Airy, North Carolina	\$ 10,025.51	\$ -
Deposit account - (interest bearing) - BB&T Bank, Mount Airy, North Carolina	221,847.11	
Certificate of Deposit - Surry Bank & Trust, Mount Airy, North Carolina, dated 6-7-14 maturing 6-7-15 with interest @ 0.5 percent per annum.	51,574.15	
Certificate of Deposit - Surry Bank & Trust, Mount Airy, North Carolina, dated 6-7-14 maturing 6-7-15 with interest @ 0.5 percent per annum.	51,574.15	
Certificate of Deposit - BB&T Bank, Mount Airy, North Carolina, dated 3-21-14 maturing 3-21-15 with interest @ 0.05 percent per annum.	111,660.28	
Certificate of Deposit - BB&T Bank, Mount Airy, North Carolina, dated 11-21-14 maturing 11-21-15 with interest @ 0.10 percent per annum	-	53,591.42
	\$ 446,681.20	\$ 53,591.42


Dwayne M. Carter, Treasurer

February 25, 2015



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ISA Southern Chapter Entry Form

Award Category that applies to your nominee:

- Award of Merit
- Honorary Life Membership
- Award of Achievement
- Award for Excellence in Arboriculture
- Education Award
- Award of Arboricultural Research
- John G. Martin Award

Nominee's Name/Title

Company/Organization Name

Address

Phone Number/E-mail Address

Nominator's Name

Nominator's Contact Information

Please describe in the space below information regarding the nominee such as participation in ISA or related industry/professional organizations, any noteworthy projects or initiatives the nominee has either led or participated in over the past few years with respect to arboriculture. Be sure to include a summary of their career path in arboriculture, especially in relationship to the specific award. You may submit additional information on a separate page.

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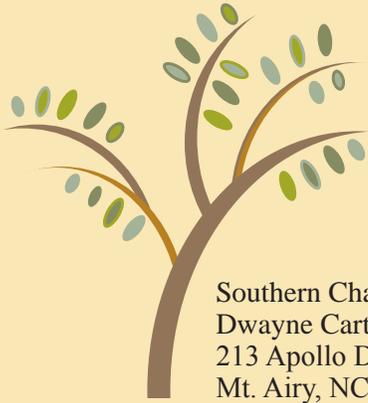
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Nominations are due December 31, 2015.



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