



# Texas Vegetation Management Association

December, 2010

## QUARTERLY CLIP

Volume 8, Issue 4

### Conference Sets Records

A record number attended the Annual Texas Vegetation Management Association Conference at the College Station Hilton. Most were there to attain CEU's or hear the most up-to-date information about the vegetation industry, and everyone was able to network. The number of sponsors also increased, and the association is appreciative of all that sponsors do for the vegetation management. Scott Dunham and the board worked hard to once again provide unique experiences while meeting educational needs. If you missed the steaks at the Riverside Campus, you missed a fantastic meal. Coordinating Riverside Campus activities with hotel activities to accommodate the needs of all involved was no easy task, but attendee surveys indicated the conference did that successfully. Certainly, every year TVMA learns from suggestions what members want for future conferences and tries to apply what is learned.

Plans are already underway for next year at the YO in Kerrville, October 3-5. If you have suggestions for speakers and activities, let us know. Televisions in the sponsor room for Monday night football, coupled with a bar-b-que meal, will make Monday night an event you will want to attend. Several topic suggestions have already been taken into account from surveys and membership. Save the date and join us again or for the first time as TVMA continues to grow in numbers and services. Increased membership increases the voice of vegetation management.

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### Need CEUs?-Join TVMA at Koko Palace In Lubbock

The first TVMA Tyler Regional Workshop held at the Tyler Rose Garden Complex was a hit with attendees. Informative speakers brought attendees up-to-date on topics ranging from "Dealing with Resistant Weeds" to "Water Permits," and it was a beautiful day to address sprayer topics in the Tyler sunshine. Join TVMA next year at Tyler. Layne Fields, Mike Standish and Howard Pierson made the workshop viable to serve the Tyler area.

If you missed the November 9th meeting in Tyler, don't despair. The next TVMA Regional Workshop is quickly approaching at the Koko Palace in Lubbock, Texas on December 13th. Again join us for a day from 9 to 3 with the meal included and get those CEUs. Go on line for the agenda and to register or register at the door from 8 to 9. CEUs are available from six states. Sponsored by:

**Alligare, Chemical Weed Control, CPS Timberland, Dow Agro-Science, DuPont, EDKO, Helena Chemical Co., Monsanto, Red River Specialties, SSI Maxim**

# Presidential Update

It was my privilege and honor to serve as your TVMA vice president this past year. Thank you for allowing me to hold such a position for a great association. During the past several years, I have been blessed to work with some of the greatest individuals of our industry that served on the board of directors, advisory and industry leaders.

Hosting this year's conference was an opportunity to serve our industry further, and I appreciate having the chance to do it. Going in to it I wasn't sure how it would work but, based on your feedback it was a great success. True, we have some work to do making next year's conference an even greater meeting for everyone, and Larry Mauldin is already taking your comments in to consideration. For instance, we hope attendees and vendors will have more opportunities to visit. With that in mind, a Monday Night Football party is being planned in the exhibitors' hall.

In addition,

- we will seek out exciting and thought-provoking speakers on not only vegetation management but, utility and electric concerns. If you have any suggestions drop me a line at: [scott.dunham@beckerunderwood.com](mailto:scott.dunham@beckerunderwood.com)
- and we will provide more hands on demonstrations.

As we end 2010 and start a new year, I encourage every member to get involved with TVMA to help with the upcoming challenges we face as an industry. Issues ranging from economic to regulatory to right-of-way will need our assistance to provide the best solutions for everyone. From a TVMA perspective as these changes occur we will continue to adjust ourselves to meet the industry's needs. To that purpose we are developing our strategic plan and your inputs are welcome. Some of the items that have come to light during our strategic planning are 1) aligning us with allied associations, such as, arborist and electric coop managers, 2) providing more regional training/CEU sessions and 3) exercising our legislative legs to better represent our industry concerns. Checkout the CLIP for further details to these issues.

I am very proud of our association and all that we it has grown to be. We offer four events every year that provide vegetation/right-of-way management education programs; we financially support promising scholars (we have awarded \$16,000 in academic scholarships over the last two years); and we provide a great network for our vegetation managers, arborists, consultants, and vendors. I have personally benefited from the relationships I have formed with colleagues, researchers, and friends in the industry. I know you have, too, and it's my hope that you will share your experience with someone new this year. Introduce your peers to our association.

Best wishes during this Holiday Season for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, a Happy and Prosperous New Year and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Scott Dunham



## TVMA Mission Statement

To promote and support the vegetation management industry in Texas through professional development, continuing education and training, sound environmental stewardship, and academic scholarship for its members and the public; to assist and cooperate with legislative and regulatory agencies.

## VM Industry Calendar of Events

December 13, 2010  
Regional CEU Workshop  
Koko Palace  
Lubbock, TX

October 3-5, 2011  
TVMA Annual Conference  
YO -Kerrville, TX

February 1, 2011  
TVMA Board Meeting  
YO-Kerrville, TX

## TVMA Quarterly Clip

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## Citizen Attacks Poison Ivy...

Steve White, Davey Tree Manager, sent in this article of interest.

A caring Austin citizen named Dan White took it upon himself to attack and manage over-grow poison ivy plants along a popular jogging/walking trail along a creek in Western downtown Austin. For months and months and maybe more, Dan has gathered his backpack sprayer and other tools and painstakingly basal treated and foliar sprayed intrusive poison ivy vines hanging over into the pedestrian area of the trail. Huge hairy vines and giant clumps of the ivy foliage were sprayed with Garlon herbicide in the various appropriate mixtures. He went back for re-treatments in places where it was so thick it needed more control. Then he organized a tour of the head managers of the Parks and Recreation Department. It certainly opened their eyes.

Dan did all this just because he thought it was entirely cruel to expose exercisers and tourists to the threat of the itching pest. He is quite outspoken about how he thinks. The City of Austin should be more responsible and pay attention to details like this in their many parks and green spaces. Kudos to Dan White for sure! This reminds me of the TV commercials that show a person doing a good deed and then somebody observing that good deed...then that observer is soon doing a good deed himself or herself and another onlooker sees the good act and does one himself or herself, and so on, and so on. We really need a lot of people in our world to carry out kind and thoughtful acts in every facet of our lives. This is what makes people good. That is what make us proud of our world.

## 2011 Speaker and Topic Request

Larry Mauldin, this year's TVMA Vice President, requests you send him speaker suggestions for the 2011 Annual conference in Kerrville, October 3-5, 2011. The best speakers have to be reserved early, so please send those requests to Larry at [larry.mauldin@rrsi.com](mailto:larry.mauldin@rrsi.com) or 830-864-5363. Suggested topic are also welcome; TVMA wants conference events to serve the needs of attendees. You may also send your suggestions to the TVMA office at 979-968-5612 or [kay.dippel@chbinc.net](mailto:kay.dippel@chbinc.net).

### Renew Your Membership

If you did not attend the TVMA Annual Conference or a regional workshop, which included your membership with registration, renew online at [tvma.net](http://tvma.net)

## Scholarships Do Make a Difference

The TVMA Scholarship program is a source of pride for our Association, and we know it helps students and parents through the financial stress of funding a college education in today's world. Tyler Aguillard, this year's recipient of the Craig Johnson Family Scholarship wishes to express his gratitude as have other recipients.

Tyler writes

"I am honored to be the recipient of the Craig Johnson Family Scholarship. I wanted to express my gratitude and appreciation for the support of the Craig Johnson Family and the TVMA in recognizing me with this scholarship. I am currently in my senior year at Louisiana State University, and this scholarship will greatly assist me. Again, I would like to give a big thanks to the Craig Johnson family and TVMA!"

Congratulations to all the applicants and TVMA wishes you success in all your endeavors.

Stan Jones was the scholarship chair and will be replaced by Layne Fields. Being Scholarship Chair not only involves, through a committee, examining applications, but also working with colleges and universities to get the information out about fund availability. We thank Stan for his work and also Rob Brooks. Both these members have worked hard for the scholarship program that members support through participation in the Texas Vegetation Management Association. Applications can be obtained at [TVMA.net](http://TVMA.net) and will be sent to Layne Fields, the new Scholarship Chair, or the TVMA office.

# Lifetime Achievement Awards

For the first time ever, TVMA awarded two very deserving men TVMA's highest award- the Lifetime Achievement Award for significant contributions to the vegetation management industry in Texas.

A.J. Thibodeaux, one of the recipients, began his career after leaving the Army Reserve working for Blume Tree Service for thirty years. His duties included utility line clearing and right-of-way maintenance with corporate headquarters in Willis, Texas. He worked up to Division Vice-President responsible for sales and operations in 10 States-Arizona, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

In 1995, he decided to do something different and worked for TX-Eco Environmental, cleaning and disposing of hazardous material. Another change came for A. J. in 1997. He went back into sales for Timberland Inc. which is now Crop Production Service and became a Territory Manager for parts of Texas and Oklahoma. He was a past board member of Texas ISA and TVMA and is currently a board member of Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society.

In addition to the many accolades told about A. J. at the TVMA business meeting where he received his award, one such example of his character is the year he won \$400. The prize was for signing up more TVMA members than anyone else, but A. J. donated the money back to the Association. He has always worked for the good of association members and the association as a whole focusing on what he can do to promote the field of vegetation management. The board congratulates A. J. and hopes he realizes their appreciation for all he has done.



A.J. Thibodeaux      Rob Brooks

In his giving manner and without knowing he has been nominated, A.J. nominated “Bill” Owens for the Lifetime Achievement award to which the board unanimously agreed. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to “Bill” Owens, Chemical Weed Control of South Texas, posthumously. Numerous members of Bill’s family came to accept the award showing great pride, respect, and honor for the man they miss so much. As the family said, “ It is a shame that he cannot be here to receive this recognition, but knowing him...he would have simply accepted and said, ‘Thank you, but really, there was no need.’”

Bill was born June 29th, 1931 in Garden City, Kansas. He lived there, raising his family of four daughters, until 1955 when his job with Northern Natural Gas took him to Hobbs, New Mexico.

While in Hobbs he co-founded “Triangle Painting Services”. On the job site one day, sandblasting a tank, he was approached by one of the workers on location, that worker made a comment about the weeds growing there and suggested that perhaps Bill should add that as one of their services. Well , as people say the light came on...Bill did a lot of research and communicated with a lot of people. In February of 1962 all of his hard work and dedication paid off with the beginning of “Chemical Weed Control.”

In 1970, Bill moved to Sinton, Texas where the business still flourished under the name: “Chemical Weed Control of South Texas” and then in 2001 the office was moved to Pearsall, Texas where it is still operating today; owned by his wife, Lou Owens, and operated by his step-daughter, Veletta Fuller.

Bill was a kind, generous, strong, independent, man that would offer help and guidance to any and all that needed it. He was even awarded a medal once for saving a young boy’s life.

Bill gave without hesitation and expected nothing in return.

After giving 48 years of his life to his Weed and Brush Control Business, Bill passed away October 3rd , 2009, at the age of 78.



“Bill” Owens



The Owens Family

# 2010 TVMA Sponsors

TVMA wishes to extend our THANK YOU to the following individuals and companies who went ABOVE AND BEYOND in their support of TVMA this year!

## PLATINUM SPONSORS



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# Will There be NPDES Regulations In Place By April 19, 2011?

In June of 2009 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was given a two year extension by the 6th Circuit Court to put regulations in place for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Texas opted to regulate the program and write their own regulations instead of having EPA control the program. The program in Texas will be regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). TCEQ has sent out draft copies of their proposed Texas Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) regulations but cannot move forward until EPA gets their proposed regulations finalized or gives TCEQ their blessing on their final draft. The time lines keep getting pushed back and it gets to a point where things will not work to meet the date the program needs to be in place. TCEQ was hoping to publish the regulations in November, have a stake holders meeting in December, and finalize the regulations by April 9, 2011. I received an email this week saying that EPA has not given TCEQ permission to file. This would push everything back a month and make it impossible to meet the April 19, 2011 deadline. Will the court step in and grant another extension or will applications under the NPDES not be allowed until the regulations are in place or perhaps will congress push through the bills that have been filed to restore the regulation of pesticides back under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) where it has always been and belongs. Stay tuned to see how this plays out!

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# Complementary Organization

The Utility Arborist Association is the premier organization for individuals and companies who desire to provide professional utility arboricultural services. A professional affiliation of the International Society of Arboriculture, the UAA is made up of people serving people, to enhance the quality of utility arboriculture. Our mission is to provide UAA members with opportunities to improve their skills and knowledge, and enhance public awareness. For \$25 a year UAA members receive:

- Utility Arborist Newslines - Six (6) periodicals throughout the year with the latest industry news, spotlight articles and vegetation management solutions.
- Annual Membership Directory - Members Only Web Access
- Online CEU Quizzes - earn up to 6 ISA CEUs per year!
- National Representation - an industry advocate for responding to inquiries from regulators, federal and state agencies, municipalities, media and individuals on behalf of the mutual interests of the VM community
- Training Materials - assists in the development of important training materials such as the ISA Utility Specialist Certification Study Guide and the Utility Pruning Best Management Practices Guide.
- Research - supports and gathers utility arboriculture research funding to improve our ever changing industry.
- Member Discounts- Exclusive member discounts on UAA meetings and workshops. Conveniently located, low priced, regional meetings are held throughout the United States.

UAA and TVMA share common goals- training and educating the public. UAA complements TVMA as great source for utility arborists to keep up with the latest industry news at the national level. Steve White from the Davey Tree Expert Company is the Texas regional representative and communicates local news and updates in our bi-monthly publication. You can contact Steve at [steve.white@davey.com](mailto:steve.white@davey.com) or go to [www.utilityarborist.org](http://www.utilityarborist.org) to join UAA.

## Golf Tournament Earns Scholarship Funds

Each year TVMA hosts a golf tournament to help fund the four two thousand dollar scholarships, and the tournament held this year at Pebble Creek Country Club was a great success and unique outing for those who participated or just enjoyed the club house. Many thanks to Mike Standish who was the primary tournament organizer and all those who helped with arrangements.

The longest drive was hit by Brian Dalland. The first place team included Layne Fields, Andrew Honnert, Michael Ivy, and Aaron Joiner. Second place team honors went to Randy Epps, Brandon Mathis, Brian Dalland, and Rick Bennett. The closest to the pin again went to Tee Cotton, but Rick Bennett almost took that honor-ask either of these gentlemen the story behind the presentation.

Sponsors again made the tournament a scholarship success with ROW Contracting sponsoring lunch, CPS Timberland and Helena Chemical sponsoring the beverage cart, and prizes donated by TVMA, CHB Consulting, Chemical Weed Control, and Red River Specialties.

## Gamblers Play Hold 'em and Enjoy Games

Casino Night on Tuesday evening of the conference always brings in the adventurous to concentrate in the Texas Hold 'em Tournament or try their hand at Las Vegas style game tables. As the evening progresses Hold 'em table participants dwindle through elimination and game table participants turn up the volume as the anticipation of the win grows.

Hold 'em winners were Jeffery Ortiz in first place, Michael Telesz in second, and Sonny Tedder in third.

The game table top prize went to Andrew Honnert with David Pruett taking second, and Jeff Siegel, third.

Thank you to all who participated or just came to enjoy the conversation and refreshments. Hone those skills for next year's tournament and games. Casino night monies raised also help scholarships.

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