

Award of Excellence
2008 Gold Leaf
Landscape Beautification Award
"West Texas Tree Planting"
Chapman Forestry Foundation
Christie Billing

Our next Award of Excellence is the 2008 Gold Leaf Landscape Beautification Award—West Texas Tree Planting by the Chapman Foundation. Christie Billing could not be here today would Brian Scott please come forward to accept the award?



A. Dale Chapman started his foundation in the 1970's in California to further advancement of forestry and the environment. He did that by establishing demonstration plantings on marginal lands for short rotation tree crops. We worked with University of California at Davis and together they experimented with the use of waste water and industrial effluents to enhance tree growth and conserve water.



When he was 88 years old, he moved to Texas and the goal of the Foundation changes from hands-on research to helping to educate the public about the importance of trees and their impact on the environment. Mr Chapman and his daughter Christie Billing founded scholarships in the departments of Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota, Cal Poly Pomona and Texas Tech here in Texas.



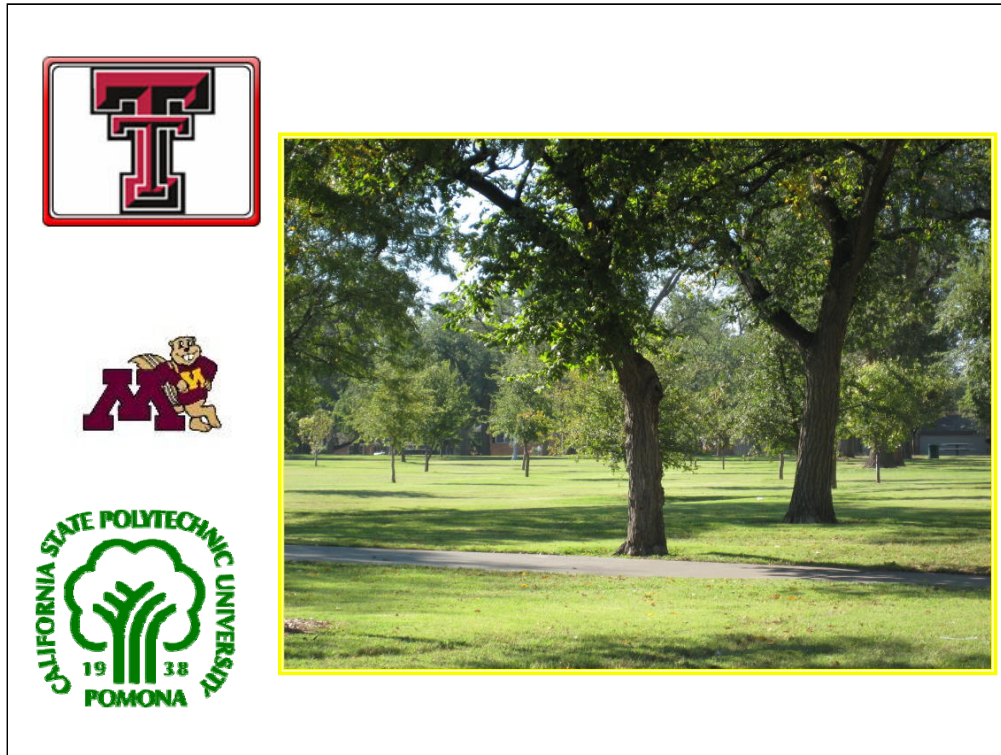
In 1996, the Chapman Foundation began annual tree planting grants to communities in West Texas. Any group can apply for a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$2,500 and have to guarantee that they will maintain them for 3-years. The Foundation requires that their grants have to be matched 50:50 by the group. Funds are awarded only for tree purchase.



Since 1998, the Chapman Foundation has planted thousands of trees in Amarillo, Midland, Lubbock, and Brownwood and in dozens of small communities like Ralls, Hale Center, Bovina, Olton, Sunray, Muleshoe and Happy Texas.



In the nomination, Mrs. Billing noted that “trees are so important to our rural and urban communities. They provide shade, reduce stormwater runoff, improve air and water quality, reduce energy consumption, enhance wildlife habitats, and just make our environment look better!” She continues, “We are pleased that our foundation has been able to support so many fine students over the years with scholarships and help bring citizens together with the funding of trees in our communities. The planting of trees is an investment in our future and our children’s future.”



The judges agreed with her as I know you'all do.

Please join me in congratulating the Chapman Foundation for their commitment to tree planting in West Texas and for this award winning Gold Leaf project.