

I would like to nominate Larry Schaapveld, Staff Forester HL of the Texas Forest Service for a *Special Achievement Award* for his service to urban forestry over his 30 year career.

Mr. Schaapveld has had a long and distinguished career as a forester with the Texas Forest Service. Most of that career has been as a pioneer in a field of *urban forestry*. Mr. Schaapveld has lead the way in this field for the entire state of Texas and has provided an extremely valuable service to the people of this state.

Mr. Schaapveld began his career with the Texas Forest Service in 1971. He spent his first three years performing the duties normally associated with a forester in our agency; providing technical assistance in timber management to private landowners. Larry did everything from "cruising timber" to writing management plans, to actually handling timber sales for the landowner. This didn't leave much time for his remaining duties such as wildfire control, public presentations, landowner meetings, etc. but he always managed to find the time necessary to deliver outstanding service to his cooperators.

Following this initial three years is when Larry became a true pioneer in his field. Urban Forestry was not a term recognized by too many people within the profession itself, much less by the general public in Texas. So it was that in 1973 Larry transferred to Dallas to become this state's very first permanent *Urban Forester*. In this capacity Larry was charged to "assist the citizens of the region in providing technical assistance on the care and management of their urban forests." This was no ordinary region. It covered over 10 counties and contained at least 2,000,000 citizens at that time! These numbers alone would overwhelm many of us, especially considering that Larry was breaking new ground in a field most people had never heard of. Apparently though the task did not seem too large to him. He immediately started making the rounds and introducing himself to key people throughout the region. In this way he began providing technical assistance on tree planting, nursery development, tree maintenance programs, development of tree ordinances and all manner of urban forestry concerns. It was during this period that Larry also became an instructor in Horticulture/Urban Forestry at Tarrant County Community College where he still teaches today. The Metroplex is full of "Schaapveld graduates" who have entered the green industry or government sector of our field.

In 1981 Larry was promoted to Staff Forester III, the agency's first. His office was moved to Ft. Worth and his region increased to about 30 counties. He continued to expand his program by not only delivering the previously mentioned assistance but by adding new programs and responsibilities. One of these programs was Tree City USA. This is a national recognition given to cities that have developed urban forestry programs and meet certain minimum standards and is awarded annually by the National Arbor Day Foundation Solely through Larry's efforts there are now 34 cities in the region that have meet these criteria and have been designated Tree Cities. Ft. Worth became the first Tree City in the entire state. Other programs taken to their peak by Larry include the Stewardship Program where Larry has the opportunity to work with rural landowners concerning environmental enhancement of their property. He will meet with the landowners and develop an in depth written plan guiding them on the steps necessary to enhance wildlife, reduce soil erosion, increase water quality or to better develop any number of other environmental assets. Most of these landowners are live in the *Urban Wildland Interface*. Larry was also one of the first foresters in the agency to implement the *Oak Wilt Suppression*

Project. Through this program he provided technical and financial assistance to control the spread of this devastating disease which attacks live oaks and red oaks throughout Central Texas. Larry has written countless educational articles that have been published in gardening magazines, newspapers and professional society newsletters throughout the state. Larry was instrumental in the development of the Texas Urban Forestry Council, the first state council in the entire United States. He also started his own regional urban forestry council that works closely with citizens and non-profit groups. And tree planting projects? Too ninny to count but without a doubt hundreds of *thousqnds* off trees have been planted in the region due to his efforts. In the mid-1980's our agency decided to expand the urban forestry program in large part due to Larry's success. At this point Larry accepted yet another duty in helping our agency train their new urban staff as the program grew. Larry's experience and insight into this field were crucial to most of us fellow urban foresters as we attempted to navigate the often-complicated world of urban forestry. I personally owe a great deal to Larry for his guidance after "coming over" to the field of urban forestry.

During Larry's 30 years the urban forestry program of the Texas Forest Service has grown to include eight urban

foresters spread from Dallas/Ft. Worth to El Paso and down to Corpus Christi. There are an additional six professional staff with the oak wilt program who also deal with urban forestry issues. The attached Vita clearly shows Larry's long list of awards and honors that only partially show the depth of involvement he gives to his job. Larry Schaapveld *can truly be called the "Father of Urban Forestry in Texas" and there is nobody in Texas more deserving of receiving this award.*

Larry Schaapveld, Vita

Personal Information

Education:

* B.S. Forestry 1971, Oklahoma State University

Awards & Honors:

- 1990 "Outstanding Support", City of Grapevine, Treefest.
- 1991 "Arborist of the Year", Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture.
- 1992 "Award of Appreciation", City of Euless, "Arbor Daze".
- 1993 "Golden Acorn Award", ReLeaf Tarrant County
- 1993 "Directors Award for Technical Forestry", Texas Forest Service.
- 1994 "Award of Appreciation", City of Euless, Arbor Day Celebration.
- 1996 "Outstanding Service", Gateway Regional Urban Forestry Council.
- 1998 Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence, Texas A&M University System
- 2000 Urban and Community Forestry Award, USFS Southern Region

Professional Memberships/Organizations:

- Society of American Foresters
- International Society of Arboriculture
- National Arbor Day Foundation
- Texas Forestry Association
- American Forests

State/National Committees:

- President, Society of American Foresters, Dallas Chapter
- President, International Society of Arboriculture, Texas Chapter
- Director, International Society of Arboriculture, Texas Chapter.
- Chair, Awards Comm., International Society of Arboriculture, Texas Chapter.
- Chair, Conference Comm., International Society of Arboriculture, Texas Chapter.
- Awards Comm., Texas Forest Service.
- Budget Reallocation Comm., Texas Forest Service.

Current Teaching/Ext. Activities:

- Instructor for 20 years in Horticulture/Urban Forestry at Tarrant County Community College.