

Mr. Steve Houser

Background: Mr. Steve Houser, a Dallas area native, is a Dallas County Master Gardener and contributes well over 1000 volunteer hours each year toward worthy tree/forestry, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist projects. He teaches the North Texas Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists, as well as other local chapters, and regional Master Gardener chapters each year about tree and forest related subjects. He offers public presentations through both groups as well as the City of Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee, which he chaired for 4 years. A part of the Master Naturalist training involves field trips to natural areas such as Reverchon Park with Steve, to discuss forest ecology. Steve has been a Texas Master Naturalist himself since 2000.

By profession, he is a consulting/certified arborist and the owner/president of the largest, independently owned, tree-care expert firm in the state. He employs many of the top experts in various tree care fields such as plant pathology, horticulture, forestry and native plants. His company is well recognized around the world as representing the state of Texas in international tree climbing competition for sixteen different years.

He also enjoys being an advisor to Vision North Texas, a cooperative effort between the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), UT Arlington and the Urban Land Institute (ULI), which works to plan for the expected population growth (expected to double by 2030) in the 16 county area represented by NCTCOG.

His direct involvement in advocating for change began over 15 years ago by urging officials with a local company to preserve over 60 trees. The disagreement became a public issue that was the impetus for the establishment of the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition. The group works to recognize historic trees and advocate for tree preservation around the region. He also worked to establish the Texas Tree Trails, which finds and records information on the most significant trees in our area.

His awards include

“Preservation Project Award” (1996), from the National Arbor Day Foundation Awards in 1996 and a similar award in 1998 from the City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department for the Reverchon Park Restoration Project and Dealey Plaza tree cleanup.

“Outstanding Texas Community Volunteer” (2000), from the Texas Urban Forestry Council/Texas Forest Service.

“Outstanding Professional of the Year” (2001), Texas Urban Forestry Council/Texas Forest Service.

“Award of Merit” for “inestimable time” dedicated to the chapter, by the International Society of Arboriculture, Texas chapter.
The “Steve Houser Award of Excellence” (a.k.a. “The Houser Cup”) (2001), is awarded each year to the Texas state tree-climbing champion by the International Society of Arboriculture, Texas Chapter.
“President’s Call to Service Award” (2008) Presented by the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation for accumulation of over 5000 hours of volunteer service through the Texas Master Naturalist program.

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