

previously. One way we intend to use our increased amount of funds is by creating a library for the membership. We purchased the first two books immediately after the workshop. The books will be kept at our meeting place, and will be available to members during the hours the center is open.

Towards public education, we are currently designing a brochure that will replace all the individual flyers we print. These will be given free to the public, and possibly dispersed in a mass mailing. As we increase our working capital in the future, there is the possibility that it will be used to increase the number of pruning demonstrations we perform.

Summary

Everyone benefits from the existence of a local

arborists association. Certainly the members do, by way of education and public recognition. The public benefits as they are made knowledgeable about what a qualified arborist is and what proper tree care is. National associations such as ISA benefit when local associations encourage their members to join, as we certainly do. But the ultimate beneficiaries are the urban forest and individual trees that will have their health and environment improved as concern for them increases amongst the general public, and as those who work on trees become better educated about proper care.

Arbor Vitae Tree Care
7115 Wishing Well Drive
Austin, Texas 78745

ABSTRACT

GERSTENBERGER, PETER. 1989. **Tree support systems.** *Grounds Maintenance* 24(9):42, 44, 46, 82, 86-87.

Near houses, automobiles and people, some trees may be hazards and liabilities for the owners. If a tree starts to break up, the owner must decide whether to remove it or prune out large parts of its canopy. Both options may be undesirable. Fortunately, there are other alternatives. For trees that are in reasonably good shape, guy wires, cables and rigid bracing are options that support and strengthen the trees. We use these mechanical systems to repair damaged trees and to help prevent or reduce future property damage and tree disfigurement. *Cable bracing* uses flexible, galvanized steel cable to support a weak fork—a narrow V-fork that develops when two equal-size branches originate at nearly the same point. Long, *horizontal* branches may need support, especially if internal decay has weakened them. Cable bracing uses strong tree limbs to lessen the burden of weak ones. *Rod or rigid bracing* uses lengths of various diameter steel rods threaded with wood screw or machine thread. Rod bracing provides additional, rigid support where a defect has developed in a fork, cavity, limb or trunk. It also can hold rubbing limbs together or spread them apart. *Guying* provides added support to established trees when roots are shallow or have been damaged and to very large, recently transplanted trees. When guying, you install cables between trees or between a tree and the ground. Periodically inspect cabling, bracing, and guying systems after installation. Look for deterioration of cabling material and for changes in the trees that could make adjustments necessary.