



Remember to call
Rebecca Fisher at
626/744-4514 no later
than 02/15/02
with your reservation
for the general meeting.

Rebecca Fisher, Secretary
STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.
P. O. Box 6415
Anaheim, CA 92816-6415

Next Meeting:
February 21st
**ARBOR DAY
CELEBRATIONS**
presented by:
*Deborah Day, City of
Fontana and Greg Monfette,
City of Los Angeles*
WYNDAM HOTEL—COMMERCE
5757 Telegraph Road
TBM PG 675H3

2002 MEETING SCHEDULE

February 21st	ARBOR DAY CELEBRATIONS <i>Deborah Day, City of Fontana</i>	Wyndam Hotel Commerce
March 28th	REFORESTATION OF PCH HOSTED BY WCA	Sherman Gardens Newport Beach
April 3rd	STS Board Meeting Open to all members interested in getting more involved	Wyndam Hotel Commerce
April 25th	PEST UPDATE—2002	Wyndam Hotel Commerce
May 16th	PALMS, ETC. <i>Susan Sims, Sims Horticultural Services</i>	Sim's Office and Lab Riverside
June 27th	GOLF TOURNAMENT	TBA
July	DARK MONTH	
August 29th	RUBBER SIDEWALKS <i>Walter Warriner, City of Santa Monica</i>	TBA Santa Monica

REBECCA FISHER, SECRETARY
STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.
P. O. BOX 6415
ANAHEIM, CA 92816-6415



Street Tree Seminar, Inc. Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY, 2002

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 2

STS HOLDS ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM AT SEQUOIA CONFERENCE CENTER

STREET TREE SEMINAR

has been instrumental in the development, health, care and management of street trees in Southern California for over 40 years.

STREET TREE SEMINAR

is comprised of Street Tree Superintendents, supervising personnel, professional consultants, arborists, individuals and firms whose businesses are related to street tree management.

STREET TREE

problems within your own city can be brought to an open forum on a monthly basis to assist you in timely information that could save your city thousands of dollars and salvage beautiful irreplaceable street trees.

The full day seminar touched on a wide range of topics which included the ethics of private and public tree care professionals, the latest information on diseases in date palms, chemicals for suppressing undesirable fruit, slow release fertilizers and microbes, selecting quality nursery stock and training young trees for structure and form.

ETHICS

The first speaker was **Bruce Wegner, Director of Beaches and Recreation in San Clemente** who spoke about professional ethics in his two-part talk entitled 'Life in a Fishbowl'. He described how every professional arborist, whether municipal or private, faces public review and scrutiny for their practices. Arborists need to carefully frame what their customers want and provide their services in an ethical manner. Ethics, he said, is the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation. It can also be defined as conforming to accepted professional standards of conduct. Generally, the more moral duty or character exhibited by an organization or individual, the fewer rules are necessary. Less moral character results in more rules. Lack of moral character can result in chaos and eventually anarchy.

He discussed trust and perception and how the public and our customers perceive the work that we do. His analogy was a fishbowl, that we (the fish) are constantly being watched, that we are in full view of the public (the fish bowl owners) and that when we make a mistake it is usually seen.

Next, he described how to determine what customers really want and how to connect with your customers so that they receive the best possible service from your organization. Complaints are often not voiced, for every 1 complaint, there are 20 more not voiced, but those people tell on average 14 others.

One of the high points of his talk was the Ethics Quick Test:

1. Is the action legal?
2. Does it comply with our values?
3. If you do it, will you feel bad?
4. If you know it's wrong, don't do it.
5. If you're not sure, ask, ask, ask.

And a tidbit on conscience...

"Conscience is God's built in warning system. Be very, happy when it hurts you. Be very worried when it doesn't"

paraphrase of Acts 24:16

FUSARIUM IN PHOENIX PALMS

Ken Pfalzgraf (kpfalzgraf@ci.beverly-hills.ca.us) from the City of Beverly Hills presented information about *Fusarium oxysporum* in Phoenix palms. He described how to identify the pathogen, proper culture to avoid the infection and how to treat a condition in Phoenix palms that may make them more susceptible to *Fusarium*.

What is Fusarium?

Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. *canariensis* is a fatal vascular wilt that causes clogging of the xylem cells that supply water and nutrients to growing tissue. When the plant is unable to transport adequate moisture to the tissues, it wilts. Not all *Fusarium* types are fatal to Phoenix palms, so be sure to confirm the presence of the fatal pathogen with a laboratory report before removing trees.

UPCOMING MEETING INFO

February 21st ARBOR DAY CELEBRATIONS

presented by:
*Deborah Day, City of Fontana and
Greg Monfette, City of Los Angeles*
WYNDAM HOTEL—COMMERCE
5757 Telegraph Road
COMMERCE—TBM PG 675H3



MEETING SCHEDULE
10:30 Social 11:00 Program
12:00 Lunch & Meeting
PRICE: \$ 15.00 per person

WHERE TO CONTACT US:

2002 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Hunt Bch, CA 92648
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Gardena, CA 90247
310.354.1382

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La Mirada, CA 90638
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Al Remyn
1410 E. Everett Place
Orange, CA 92867
714/538-3821

MAILING ADDRESS

Street Tree Seminar
P. O. Box 6415
Anaheim, CA 92816

ON THE WEB:

www.
streetreeseminar.com

Symposium Highlights Continued

What causes palms to be susceptible to *Fusarium*? Palms are monocots have the following characteristics:

- All the vascular bundles are developed radially before the tree starts to gain much height.
- Palms gain height by extending existing vascular bundles.
- Palms are structurally overbuilt. For example, some palms have as many as two fronds developing inside the upper part of the stem for every green frond in the crown.
- Palms lack the ability to replace or repair damaged tissue.
- Some palms have air roots or pneumatodes that help to aerate the upper portion of the root zone.

Fusarium moves freely through these roots and into the stem.

Both the crown and the root zone can become infected with *Fusarium oxysporum*. Additionally, there is some evidence that *Khamedj* disease, which causes aborted inflorescences (fruit/flowers) may be causal in subsequent *Fusarium* infections that begin in the crown. *Khamedj* disease may also lead to 'Sudden Crown Drop', a structural abnormality that can lead to catastrophic stem failure in *P. canariensis*. *Phoenix* species are genetically unstable and freely cross-hybridize. There is some evidence that *P. canariensis* has become genetically diversified. It is propagated by seed, and any *Phoenix* species male can wind pollinate the female tree. This genetic hybridization is thought to have resulted in palms that may be more susceptible to *F. oxysporum* than others.

There are two types of decline shown in *P. canariensis*; Class I, Slow decline, one frond at a time and Class II, Mass stem bundle infection – quick decline

Culture-avoiding the spread of *Fusarium*

1. Over-pruning can lead to problems in *Phoenix* palms. When a sizeable portion of the crown is pruned off, water does not move through the stem properly. Starch reserves are mobilized unnecessarily, sometimes leading to excessive inflorescence production.
2. The inflorescence should be removed from the male trees to limit susceptibility to pathogens, especially *Khamedj*.
3. Chainsaws should not be used for pruning. Use handsaws that have been immersed in an equal solution of bleach and water for 5 min. between palms. This alone will not prevent the spread of *Fusarium*, since non-pruning considerations are involved (i.e. *Khamedj*, root infection, etc.).

4. Installing plans near the stem of *Phoenix* palms can result in damage to pneumatode roots and increase pathogen susceptibility. Some plants are symptomless carriers of *Fusarium*.

5. Improved drainage, fertilization and treatment of a dense pneumatode mat may help *Phoenix* to live longer and be less susceptible to pathogens.

Summary

§ *Phoenix* palms are susceptible to *F. oxysporum*
§ *Fusarium* is a serious worldwide problem
§ We can best protect our populations through culture.

FRUIT ELIMINATION

Marianne Weindel from Monterey Chemical presented information on how to time the spraying of chemicals to suppress unwanted fruit. She discussed her products and the responses of different species to the chemicals and recommended specific timing to get the best results.

SLOW RELEASE NITROGEN FERTILIZERS

Keith Gietrich from Growth Products discussed his products which included liquid slow-release nitrogen and minors for trees. He talked about the advantages of slow release products in both effective use of fertilizer and the benefits to the trees.

NURSERY STOCK SELECTION

Brian Kempf presented recent information about selecting quality nursery stock. The program outlined how to choose trees that would become healthy mature contributing members of the urban forest. Brian has been working with nursery stock specifications to improve the quality of trees planted in the state. His handout "Nursery Stock Specifications" has a list of features that should be present in healthy nursery stock and lists what to avoid.

Quality trees are less maintenance, have better overall health, and better root support systems. What attributes can be found in a quality tree?

1. The central leader should be intact. In some circumstances, the central leader can be removed – as long as a new central leader is established in its place.
2. Trees should have good branch spacing.
3. If trees are staked at all, it should be flexible bamboo staking instead of 1x2 stakes. Bamboo allows the trunk to move, building up caliper.
4. Roots are not circling. Trees should be well rooted to the edge of the container.

Additional information can be obtained at brian@urbantree.org.

MORE SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

Larry Costello from UC Cooperative Extension presented information about training young trees for structure and form. He noted that most young trees never receive a training prune. Trees that do get pruned are pruned improperly. Some municipalities contend that they cannot afford to perform training prunes. He promotes that the reverse is true, that if the trees don't receive a training prune, they will end up costing more in the long run.

The purpose of training young trees is to remove structural defects, increase the lifespan of the tree and save money by reducing unnecessary limb failure and claims. He mentioned a large tree failure in France in which a large London Plane tree failed on top of a tent full of people viewing a concert. Early pruning can prevent certain types of limb/tree failures.

There is a tree failure report which describes mostly failures in Northern California. Many of the failures listed are tree that have co-dominant leaders that were left uncorrected and failed as the tree grew large.

Larry outlined a 5-step process for training pruning small trees. The process does not apply to multi-stemmed trees and trees that have been pollarded. The 5 steps should be followed in sequence. For further information, refer to the Training Young Trees video (Costello 2000) and Arboriculture: Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs and Vines (Harris et al. 1999), and an Illustrated Guide to Pruning (Gilman 1997).

STEP 1 Remove broken, diseased, dying or dead branches

STEP 2 Select a leader and remove competing leaders. The strongest and most vertical stem can be selected.

STEP 3 Select the lowest permanent branch. Street trees would need a branch 8 feet over the sidewalk and 14 feet over the street minimum clearance. Look for a vigorous branch with a strong attachment. Smaller temporary branches should be left but can be pruned back to one or two buds.

STEP 4 Select scaffold branches and cut back and remove competing branches. Scaffold branches are the permanent branches of the tree and constitute its framework.

STEP 5 Select temporary branches below the lowest permanent branch. Remove branches with a diameter of greater than 1/3 the diameter of the trunk at the point of attachment. Smaller branches can stay. Shorten the length of temporary branches to 2-4 buds.

He recommended to review the steps with those who will prune the trees. Then, ID the branches for removal before making the cuts. Discuss the reasons for selection and then come back in future years to see the results of the pruning.

Street Tree Seminar, Inc. President, Dan Jensen would like to thank all the speakers for sharing their "craft" with us. It was a very informative day.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CITY OF LA MIRADA
MAINTENANCE II
\$2,837 to \$3,531 per month, plus excellent benefits

JOB DESCRIPTION: Under direction of the Maintenance Superintendent, Maintenance Supervisor, or Maintenance III performs manual and skilled maintenance work in assigned job sites including streets, parkways, civic facilities, and parks; often works in a variety of weather conditions and may be required to work irregular hours and evenings.

TYPICAL DUTIES PERFORMED: (These examples do not include all the duties, which may be assigned; any one position may not include all the duties listed).

- Supervises crew of one or more subordinates; instructs, schedules and assigns personnel in the use of various tools and equipment; schedules maintenance assignments.
- Diagnoses diseases and insects affecting plants and vegetation; performs necessary spraying of herbicides or insecticides; performs root pruning and stump grinding.
- Cultivates weeds, edges, mows, waters, and trims lawns, shrubs, trees, and ground covers in assigned job sites.
- Installs and maintains sprinkler and irrigation systems; performs plumbing, electrical, carpentry, masonry repair, welding, and custodial maintenance on City buildings and park facilities.
- And other related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: **Knowledge of:** The techniques of plumbing, electrical work, concrete work, carpentry, facility maintenance, asphalt, installation of street signs, and street and traffic signing; Related work hazards and standard safety rules and procedures; Horticulture, tree trimming, landscaping techniques, herbicides, insecticides, chemicals and fertilizers. **Ability to:** Use and maintain basic power equipment, materials, hand tools, and a variety of heavy-duty maintenance and automotive equipment. Train and assist subordinate personnel, and establish and maintain effective working relationships with others. Perform manual labor in a variety of weather conditions and perform work requiring physical strength, dexterity and endurance. Read, write and carry out oral and written instructions in English. Operate a motor vehicle safely. Exercise good judgment, courtesy and tact with staff and public. Must be available to work weekend hours and nights. Utilize quality customer service skills and techniques.

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION: **Experience:** Three years of municipal maintenance or general maintenance experience is required. **Education:** Graduation from high school or the equivalent and advanced level course work from an accredited institution in building repair, public works, or a related field. Any combination of experience and education that would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities would be qualifying.

LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE: Possession of a valid California Class "B" Driver's License. Certified Arborist Certification highly desirable. Certified Pest Control Applicators License highly desirable. Certified Welder Certification highly desirable.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS: This position is subject to Department of Transportation Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Call the City of La Mirada Job Information Line at (562) 902-2357 for application, or apply in person at City Hall, 13700 La Mirada Blvd., La Mirada, California 90638.

Upcoming Industry Events

MARCH 21-22, 2002

TREES, PEOPLE AND OUR URBAN ENVIRONMENT
USUSB—College of Extended Learning
Richard Nixon Library—Yorba Linda, CA
CONTACT: Beverly Noerr—909.880.5977

APRIL 29 TO MAY 2, 2002

VENTURING BEYOND THE CANOPY—
WCISA 69TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
San Pedro—Catalina Island—Ensenada, BC
CONTACT: WCISA—530.892.1118