Remember to call Rebecca Latta at (626) 335-9304 or email her at rebeccalatta@earthlink.net no later than 5/20/03 with your reservation for the general meeting.

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

Next Meeting:
May 29, 2003
Challenges of the Municipalities
"Round Table Discussion"
4580 Figueroa St
Highland Park, LA

MEETING SCHEDULE:
10:30—12:00 Program
12:00 Lunch & Meeting
PRICE: $15.00 RESERVED
$20.00 FOR "DROP INS"

2003 MEETING SCHEDULE

May 29, 2003	Challenges of the Municipalities "Round Table Discussion"	Ramona Hall 4580 Figueroa St Highland Park, LA
June 26, 2003	Golf Tournament	Westridge Golf Club 1400 La Habra Hills Dr. La Habra, CA
July	Dark Month	
August 28, 2003		
September 25, 2003		

REBECCA LATTA, SECRETARY
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Street Tree Seminar, Inc. Monthly Newsletter

MAY, 2003 VOLUME IX, ISSUE 5

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.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PEST CONTROL UPDATE 2003

Don Hodel, UCCE Los Angeles – Diseases and Disorders of Palm Trees
Palms do not have vascular cambium like other trees. When damaged, their trunks do not repair or heal over. They have a different response to pathogens and disorders than trees with vascular cambium.

Palm Diseases
Pink Rot - *Gliocladium vermeoseni* produces salmon-colored spores during cool to moderate temperatures. Other symptoms include canker, oozing and rot. Eventually the palm will fail. Susceptible plants include Archontophoenix, Syagrus, and Washingtonia. The disease often enters the plant when leaf bases (sheaves) are ripped off opening the tree to wound infection.

Palm Smut – *Graphiola*. This is a leaf spot, which appears only on Phoenix canariensis and is not fatal.

Phytopthora Trunk Rot – *Phythopthora nicotianaeae*. This rot attacks Washingtonia species. The rot enters the plant and causes a decline in vigor when there is excessive watering or the crown of the tree is buried too deeply. The disease is not yet common in California.

Black Rot – *Thielaviopsis* (also called Chalara) – This is a common soil fungus that can spread via wounds on the tree. It is mostly found on Phoenix canariensis and causes stem rot and loss of structural integrity. It has also been called the 'Sudden Head Drop' disease by those urban foresters familiar with 1,000 pounds of palm crown unexpectedly falling on cars and other immovable objects.

Fusarium Wilt – *Fusarium oxysporum*, Fusarium canariensis – This wilt is common in Phoenix and Washingtonia palms. Eventual death is guaranteed. The telltale sign of this disease is a frond with dead on one side, green on the other. The crown dies from the bottom up. A molecular test is required for positive ID. Fusarium can often be found in conjunction with Pink Rot.

Palm Fertilization
Don presented basic concepts regarding fertilizing palms. A soil test is usually recommended prior to any soil treatment to assess the existing conditions:

1. Palms need high amounts of nitrogen and potassium; they need a moderate amount of magnesium. Nitrogen deficiencies can appear as a general yellowing of all leaves. Potassium and magnesium can be deficient in sandy soils and appears as orange, translucent flecking and/or a general yellow to orange band around the leaf margins. Affected leaves will not change with added nutrients; new leaves must be produced to replace affected ones.
2. Palms need healthy root growth for adequate uptake of micronutrients like iron and manganese. Anything that damages roots or slows their activity such as poor drainage, low soil oxygen, disease, cool temperatures and mechanical damage could lead to micronutrient deficiencies. Symptoms appear on the new leaves and appear as yellowing between green veins, dwarfed or deformed leaves. Often cultural conditions responsible for the inadequate uptake must be addressed to correct the deficiencies.
3. Sound horticultural practices that encourage good drainage, healthy soil and root growth are preferable to treating symptoms. Lawn around trees is problematic. Palms can be fertilized with slow-release products with magnesium and minor elements. Some companies produce "palm special" products. Severe Magnesium deficiency can be treated temporarily with magnesium sulfate (ordinary Epsom salts).

Dr Jim Downer, UCCE Ventura – Shade Tree Diseases
Diseases commonly occur on all parts of trees including roots, bark and cambium, trunk and canopy. Diseases generally take time to spread.

UPCOMING MEETING INFO

May 29, 2003
CHALLENGES OF THE MUNICIPALITIES
"Round Table Discussion"
4580 N. Figueroa St—Highland Park, LA
Thomas Brothers Map 595—B4

MEETING SCHEDULE:
10:30—12:00 Program
12:00 Lunch & Meeting
PRICE: $15.00 RESERVED
$20.00 FOR "DROP INS"

MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 24, 2003

Vice-President Greg Monfette called the meeting to order. Past Presidents Andy Trotter, Walter Warriner, Al Remyn and Dan Jensen attended the meeting.

Treasurer's Report
Greg Monfette for Omar Davis, treasurer, submitted report for the period from 3/20/03 to 4/24/03.

	General	Cert Dep	Mny Mkt	Total
Start Balance	$ 9,878.04	$102,567.47	$25,014.96	$137,460.47
Income	$ 3,085.53	$ 129.87	$ 20.68	$ 3,236.08
Expenses	($11,851.28)	$	$	($11,851.28)
New Balances	**$ 1,112.29**	**$102,697.34**	**$25,035.64**	**$128,845.27**

Door Prizes
Door prizes were donated by Street Tree Seminar, RPW Inc, West Coast Arborists, United Horticultural Supply, Western Farm Services, and Target Specialty Products

The lucky winners were Elise Jackson, Natalia von Ellenrieber, Kenneth Graham, Walt Warriner, Tony Sota, Jeff Davidson, Brian Waterby, Mary Fearman, Carl Mellinger, Shirley Bennett, Mike Monroe, Tom Levene, Bob Chavez, Kerry Norman, Rene Portillo, Jaime Armanez, Cynthia Cohen, Sergio Hernandez, Jan Fraxnie, Ester Cadman, Dennis Garraher, Andy Trotter, Janessa Butts

Next Meeting: Join us for "Challenges of the Municipalities – Round Table Discussion" at Ramona Hall, 4580 Figueroa St, Highland Park, LA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Latta
Secretary

PEST UPDATE SUMMARY—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The early signs of disease are often not readily apparent. By the time diseases are seen, it may be too late to save the plant. Humans have been responsible for spreading disease and bringing new diseases to different parts of the world.
Often disease begins with a propagule arrives on a host which germinates or becomes active. The disease begins to grow inside the plant tissue. Disease loves stupidity and human error. Each disease is ecologically adapted to the host it favors. The host must also be susceptible and the pathogen virulent. Pathogens can be variable and may lose their genes for virulence over time.

They also need a favorable environment to develop and prefer a stressed host. Disease may be only a part of overall tree decline. Jim's top three conditions that lead to disease include: 1. Too wet, too dry; 2. Planted too deep; or 3. Wrong plant, wrong place

Foliage and Shoot Disease
Anthracnose – attacks Sycamore, Elm, Maple, and Oak. There is no wonder cure for this non-fatal disease. Oak trees have been misdiagnosed as dead when infected. The disease is weather driven and prefers warm, moist weather. Sycamore Anthracnose causes the tree to have an interesting crooked form. Ash Anthracnose causes the tree to defoliate from the bottom up. Some cultivars of these trees have resistant. Anthracnose will follow the veins of the leaves.

Root and Bark Disease
Armellaria and Phytopthera– starts in the cambium/roots. Symptoms can include mineral deficiencies in the leaves, slow decline and thinning of crown which are resulting from less nutrient uptake from the roots/cambium. Nematodes can infect roots and show similar symptoms.

Armellaria mellea appears in clusters and does not spread to other trees. It often has fan-shaped mycelium and causes bleeding. In some cases the Armellaria produces rhizomorphs manifested in black threadlike shoestring roots. Armellaria can take the strength out of the wood in the tree. The tree can appear green and healthy with and topple with little warning.

Phytopthera is not a fungus; it is a form of algae. It causes dieback at the top of the shrub, discoloration of foliage, leaves that yellow and then wilt and bleeding. In the cambium, it appears as a brown line moving up the stem with healthy tissue (white) above. Phytopthera can survive in wet soil because it has swimming spores. The zoospores attach themselves to the area where roots leak starch. Phytopthera needs wet soil, compacted soil. It enjoys feasting on plants buried too deep with standing water. Subdue and Aliete can be helpful in the early stages. Increasing calcium and adding mycorrhizae may also help as a preventative measure. Phytopthera exists everywhere in the soil, it is important to prevent the conditions that cause it to flourish.

Other Disturbing Pathogens
Pierce's Disease - *Xylella fastidiosa* - This bacterium is spread by the glassy winged sharpshooter. The pathogen invades the xylem and produces xanthum gum, which plugs up the plants vascular system. The result is plants with scorch symptoms. Many plants are susceptible. Need lab to distinguish it from verticillium wilt.

Pitch Pine Canker – *Fusarium circuniatum* - This canker causes shoot overgrowth and overall tree stress. Monterey Pine is susceptible; host lists are available from UCCE.

Oxysporus latomarginalis – Fungus that attacks Pittosporum

PEST UPDATE SUMMARY—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

undulatum. It appears as a white cottony substance on the tree trunk. It poses a great risk to the tree, as it is a white rot and causes strength loss in the wood. Mostly in coastal areas.

Dr Rosser Garrison and Natalia von Ellenrieber, LA County Agricultural Commissioner's Office – Insect Problems in So California
Human activity has been the primary cause of the spread of destructive insects in California. There have been 300 recorded new species of insects since 1955. Roughly one-third of the insects are homoptera, which are sessile and difficult to detect.

Insects and Recommended Control
Giant Whitefly – *Aleurodicis sp.* Where insects are not heavy remove infected parts. Wash with water or spray with a hose to dislodge the offending insects. Chemical control can be achieved with imidacloprid. Biological control can be accomplished using *Idioporus affinis and Entedonocreminus sp.*

Pink Hibiscus Mealybug – Causes unopened leaves, distorted and bushy leaves. 200 known hosts. Mature female produces pink cottony substance. Control is best with biological means.

Red Gum Lerp Psyllid – *Glycapsis sp.* Insect looks like mini-cicadas. Creates a lerp to cover itself. Hosts are Eucalyptus species. Biological control is a parasitic wasp.

Grevillea psyllid – *Acizzia sp.* Insect is free living and does not produce a lerp. Hosts are Grevillea and Banksea.

Glassy Winged Sharpshooter – *Homalodisca coagulata*. This prolific insect looks like a large leafhopper. Lays eggs under leaves. Transmits Pierce's Disease when the larvae molts. When it sucks on an infected plant, it picks up the disease again. There is no cure known for Pierce's Disease. Control of GWSS can help limit spread of disease.

Spotted Gum Lerp Psyllid – *Eucalyptolyma maideni*. Insect adult looks like skeleton of a fish, the larvae are green. Larvae are active crawlers.

Avocado Thrips – *Scirtothrips perseae* – Originally from Mexico, the thrip causes the fruit of Avocado to have alligator skin. The adults are a straw color; immature insects attach themselves to the upper leaf surface.

Cuban Laurel Thrips – Attacks Ficus. Has been known to bite humans. No control.

Australian Tortoise Beetle – *Trachymela sloanei* – Small gray-brown caterpillar that fees at night. Adults are large ugly ladybird beetles, which are flattened underneath with tufted hair on the legs.

Eucalyptus Longhorn Beetle – *Phoracantha sp.* – The species semipunctata was discovered in 1994 in LA County and the recurva was discovered in 1995 in Riverside. Recurva is more aggressive and smaller than semipunctata. The best management for the beetle is healthy trees, since the insect is attracted to stressed plants.

Eucalyptus Snout Beetle – *Gonipterus scutellatus* – This beetle is a foliavore, voraciously feeding on foliage of its' favorite host, the Blue Gum Eucalyptus. The larvae are green slugs with sticky green slime.

Oleander Moth – This New Zealand native insect turned up in Newport Beach in August of 2000. Heavy infestation results in skeletonization of the leaves. Controls are still being investigated.

Citrus Leafminer – *Phyllocnistis citrella* – Insect from India. A small moth that enjoys any plant from the Rutacea family. The larva is the leaf miner.

Sapote Moth – This moth is new to the area and therefore has no species ID. It is an ornamental pest that is known in Imperial, LA County and San Diego County. It is a leaf skeletonizer. The pupae produce a loose spun cocoon.
Palm Leaf Skeletonizer – San Diego County. Brown moth with fringed wings that attack palm leaves.

Lemon Gum Eucalyptus Gall Wasp – *Epichrysocharis burwellii*. This is not a beneficial wasp. It feeds on plants, but mostly causes cosmetic damage. It causes spots resembling chickenpox on the leaves.

Future of Insect Infestations in California
There is a great need for prevention and communication. All people who work in the green industry can assist with early detection and obey plant quarantine laws. Report all strange occurrences to Rosser or local agricultural agents.

Michael Hearst, Orange County Vector Control (Fire Ant Authority) – Fire Ant Impact on Nursery Shipments of trees
The South African Fire Ant was discovered in California in 1998 in Orange County. They have been present in Florida for many years. They can be moved in trucks, nursery stock and over the ground. They attack native birds and any other insect in their path. They are hard on young trees and plants. Ants are attracted to dark, warm places.

Colonies of ants appear as a mound, or infest valve or meter boxes. Orange County treats for Fire Ants with a growth regulator to sterilize the colony. The regulator is a metabolic inhibitor. The aggressive treatments of ants in Orange County may help to prevent further spread of the insect. The nursery industry has carried a tremendous load to see that their containers are treated before shipment.

Michael mentioned that it is important to write your government representatives to continue funding for the program. For further information you can get to their website at OCFireant.com

John Kabashima, UCCE Orange County/Los Angeles – Biological Control Problems of Recent Pests
Many exotic pests have been successfully controlled with the use of beneficial insects. John described the cycle of pests to biological predators and how to most effectively use biological control. Beneficial insects do not produce immediate results because their populations need to catch-up with the populations of pests. Sometimes the first generation of parasites can be slow if the weather is cold in the spring. The use of broad-spectrum pesticides damages efforts to control insects with biological control.

John urges anyone in the Green Industry to observe, report and confirm any unusual pest occurrences. For more information here are a list of contacts/e-mails provided by John.

OC Agricultural Commissioner (714) 477-7100 x7115
LA Agricultural Commissioner (562) 940-7234

Links:
www.cdfa.ca.gov (biocontrol website)
www.entemology.ucr.edu
www.cnr.berkeley.edu/giocon/dahlsten/dahlsten.htm

Books:
Natural Enemies Handbook
Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants
Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs (new version at the end of this year)

Many thanks to all our speakers for a very informative program. Special thanks to Kevin Holman and all the gang at RPW Services for putting together this great program and finally, a note of thanks to Larry Pasco from the City of Anaheim for the meeting room.