



Remember to call Janessa Butts at (626) 744-7432 or email her at jbutts@ci.pasadena.ca.us with your reservation for general membership meetings.

LARRY E. SMITH, EXEC. DIRECTOR  
STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.  
P.O. BOX 18498  
ENCINO, CA 91416

**Next Meeting:**  
**AUGUST 19, 2004**  
**IPM for Arboriculture**  
Sheraton Four Points Hotel  
530 West Pico Blvd.  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

**JOINT MEETING WITH WCISA**

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**  
**SEE INSERT**

## 2004 MEETING SCHEDULE

July	DARK MONTH—Stay Cool!	
August 19	IPM for Arboriculture JOINT MEETING WITH WCISA <i>All Day Program—PCA Credit have been applied for</i>	Sheraton Four Points 530 Pico Ave.—Santa Monica
Sept. 23	Round Table Discussion	TBD

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**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.

## STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC. Monthly Newsletter



JUNE 2004

VOLUME X, ISSUE 6

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON ADDRESSES THE BARK BEETLE DILEMMA

Early in 2003, a state of emergency was declared in San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego counties due to bark beetle infestation brought on by years of drought in the mountainous regions. As a result, Southern California Edison began taking aggressive actions to remove trees that could pose safety hazards and cause electric service interruptions by falling into electric lines. In presentations by Vince Oatis and Bill Hallett, both from SCE's forestry operation, the members of Street Tree Seminar were shown how the utility company is handling this, and other issues.

As seen in last summer's devastating forest blaze, the major threat from the infested trees is the fire hazard. To complicate the problem, there were more than 350,000 beetle-infested trees with the potential for falling on electrical lines and igniting more fires. Determined to alleviate the hazard, Edison has removed over 51,000 of these dead or dying trees that threaten facilities, and is continuing the rate of removal at about 60 -750 trees per day. Additionally, Edison is reimbursing property owners who have paid to remove their infected trees that could have fallen on electrical lines.

In a video presentation of "One Way Out", which was produced by the California Department of Forestry before the summer fires of 2003, the horrible foreshadowing of the fire tragedy was felt as the problems associated with the bark beetle



Widespread bark beetle infestation at Lake Arrowhead.  
Photo courtesy of Southern California Edison

damage were documented. In the last four years of severe drought, hundreds of thousands of trees have been put under stress. Public opposition to forest thinning, paired with decades of fire suppression, led to an overpopulated and stressed forest that became susceptible to bark beetle damage. In fact, the bark beetle infestation has become so problematic that there has been up to 100% tree mortality in some areas of the forest!

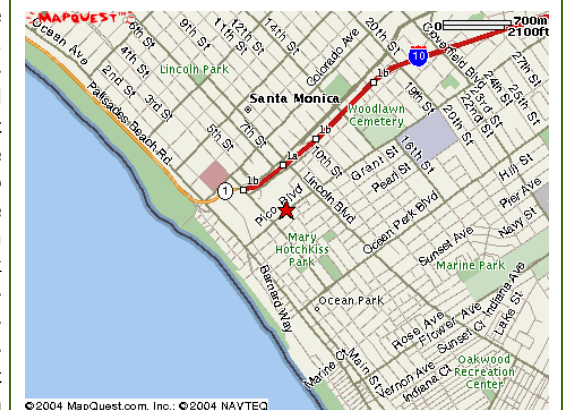
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### UPCOMING MEETING INFO

**AUGUST 19, 2004**

**IPM for Arboriculture**  
Sheraton Four Points Hotel  
530 West Pico Blvd.  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

### JOINT MEETING WITH WCISA



### MEETING SCHEDULE:

**SEE INSERT**

**WHERE TO CONTACT US:**  
2004  
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**MAILING ADDRESS**  
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P.O. Box 18498  
Encino, CA 91416

**ON THE WEB:**  
www.streetreeseminar.com

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 20, 2004**

**P**resident Greg Monfette presided over the meeting held at Southern California Edison's CTAC Facility in Irwindale. Past Presidents in attendance included Al Remyn, Rose Epperson, and Bob Meyer

**Announcements**

The publications committee is scheduled to begin revision to STS's book, *Recommended Street Tree for Southern California*, starting June 3<sup>rd</sup>. PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME TO REVIEW THE STREET TREE SPECIES LIST SURVEY INSERT IN THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER. This is the first of several surveys that will be going out to the STS Membership to gather your input for the upcoming revision to the book.

**Membership Report – Pat Duff**

No new members to report since last meeting.

**Treasurer's Report – Kevin Holman**

Money Market	\$ 15,232.26
General Fund	\$ 27,139.83
CD	\$104,488.59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$146,860.68</b>

**Scholarship – Al Remyn**

STS received a gracious thank you letter from scholarship recipient Christina Kents, which Al read to the membership.

**Special Projects**

The board is reviewing a project proposal from Cal Poly Pomona's Agriscapes. Stay tuned for more details.

**Door Prize Winners**

Art Murphy, Pat Duff, Jose Morcado, Chuck Leroy, Emilio Blanco, Corey Ray, Andy Trotter, Bill Hallett

**Door Prize Donors**

STS, SCE, WCA, RPW

**Shirts for Sale!**

Get in style for summer with a comfy, short-sleeved polo shirt from Street Tree Seminar! The shirts are white with an embroidered logo on the chest. Sizes run from M to XXXL. We also have ladies shirts as well! What a deal, they are only \$20! Contact Sergeant at Arms, Robert Sartain, or buy one at the next meeting!

**Next Meeting— August 19, 2004**

Our next meeting will be a Joint Meeting with WCISA at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Santa Monica. This will be an all day program entitled, "IPM for Arboriculture". Please see the insert for the full program schedule and the registration information.

Maximum capacity for this meeting is 200 attendees, so make plans now and register early. Register by August 11th to receive early bird discount.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Janessa Butts**  
Secretary

**INDUSTRY CALENDAR**

**JULY 12-15, 2004**

**PROFESSIONAL TREE CARE ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO—ARBORMASTER TRAINING**  
San Diego, CA  
CONTACT: ArborMaster—860.429.5028

**AUGUST 19, 2004**

**IPM FOR ARBORICULTURE**  
Santa Monica, CA  
CONTACT: WCISA—530-892-1118

**AUGUST 7-11, 2004**

**80TH ANNUAL ISA CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW—BRIDGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR TREES OF TOMORROW**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
CONTACT: ISA—330.425.9330

**SEPTEMBER 19-21**

**2004 CALIFORNIA URBAN FOREST CONFERENCE—THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF URBAN FORESTRY**  
Rohnert Park (Sonoma Wine Country), CA  
CONTACT: CUFC—707-524-1193 or [dena@caufc.org](mailto:dena@caufc.org)

**THE IMPORTANCE OF STREET TREES—CONT. FROM PG. 3**

**About the Author**

Laura is presently attending Mount San Antonio College in Walnut. Her studies are pursuing an AS degree in Ornamental Horticulture. At this time she has completed 31 units that would qualify her requirements for a BA degree. Presently she has a Cumulative GPA of 4.0. Currently, she is involved with projects at Mount San Antonio and at the L. A. Arboretum and Botanic Gardens working with high school students. Laura is a member of the Los Voluntarios at the Arboretum and gives about 150 hours as a volunteer, also performs other duties. Laura is a Student member of the International Society of Arboriculture, Southern California Horticultural Society, San Gabriel Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and the LA

Chapter California Nurserymen's Association.

Laura's career has many aspects. She begun her career at the Department of Bacteriology with the Sandoz Forschungs Institut in Vienna Austria in 1972. Then she worked at several companies on the east coast. After spending some time in London, England, Laura worked at the LA Arboretum in the areas of plant propagation, gardening, soil management and IPM. She also worked at Monrovia Nursery as propagator.

David Lannom, Laura's Academic Advisor, had this to say: "Laura is a re-entry student who is attempting a drastic career change. She has been an exceptional student in class who does very professional assignments".

**SCE ADDRESSES THE BARK BEETLE—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

With the amount of fire fuel and the mountainous location, a major fire was feared by the over 100,000 residents of



**Bark Beetle Pitch Marks**  
Photo courtesy of Southern California Edison

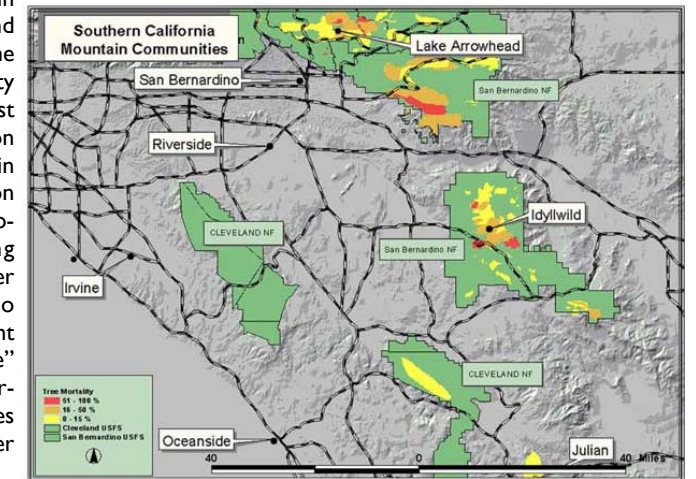
the San Bernardino National Forest. Although both government and private agencies were working to remove the dead trees, they were dying faster than they could be removed. In addition, many homeowners couldn't afford the cost of removing numerous trees on their property. Unfortunately, with these factors, the predicted fires became a reality. But due to preventative measures from various agencies, the evacuation routes were prioritized for clearing and a bigger tragedy was prevented.

Safety precaution is a priority for Edison.

In order to prevent power outages and fires, and to assure public safety, California law states that a clearance minimum of 18 inches from high voltage power lines, and 4 feet minimum clearance in high fire areas, must be maintained at all times. This involves Edison inspecting 1.5 million trees annually and pruning an estimated 600,000 trees annually to maintain safe distances from their electrical structures. Sometimes this means the trees must receive less than perfect pruning, but Edison has become proactive in this endeavor and has received the Tree Line USA Utility Award for the last four years. Edison has been involved in community education and planting programs regarding trees and power lines. They have also created a "Right Tree, Right Place" brochure to encourage proper species planting under power lines.

More and more, the utility company is

trying to involve property owners, city planners, and developers on issues regarding trees and power lines and the fire hazards that can be avoided with proper maintenance and species selection. This coming summer the fire risk is still high and many trees will still need to be removed, but with continued dedication from Edison and other agencies, many potential hazards or electrical fires can be prevented.



**THE IMPORTANCE OF STREET TREES—2003 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS**

**Beyond Emotional Attachment**

Submitted by *Laura E. Scott-Stout, 2003 Scholarship Recipient*

Humans have always had a visceral attachment to trees. Trees have been recognized as a symbol of life, and regeneration, and to some, they are imbued with sacred knowledge. Tree symbolism was common throughout Europe and appears in the lore and mythology of many cultures.

In the opening scene of Hayden's 18<sup>th</sup> century opera, Xerxes, the Persian King plants a plane tree. As he places some soil into the hole, he sings a short aria. "Under thy shade, 'O dearly beloved Tree...'" Whenever this song is played, it reminds me of the allee of famous plane trees in Cambridge, Massachusetts where I once lived.

Located next to the Charles River, these trees overhang both the sidewalk and a two-lane drive. These magnificent trees have given shade and comfort for over 100 years and for the last 20 years have been the source of political battles. Twice the Massachusetts legislature has passed bills to cut some of the trees down in order either to widen the road or to replace them with younger stock. Each time there is a terrible outcry from the public, many of whom do not wish to sacrifice even one friend.

In Pasadena, a city with a progressive street policy, citizens could also not easily be convinced that mature Ficus along Colorado Street should be replaced with more appropriate species. When the time came to cut down 30 trees, there were very loud protests. Again, no one among the protestors wanted to see even one tree felled.

The economic impact, aesthetic value and psychological benefits of street trees are well known within the profession. The National Arbor Day Foundation website quotes the following: "Nationally, the 60 million street trees have an average value of \$525 per tree. The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff an erosion. The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room size air conditioners operating 20 hours per day. Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism.

Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers and apartments rent more quickly. In laboratory research visual exposure to setting with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes. "Yet

beyond this lies a deeply rooted emotional attachment that often shapes public attitudes toward street trees.

Although the public is slowly becoming educated as to the value of these trees, there is still a need to move beyond purely emotional attachment to them. Policies at the city and town level now recognize the need for nursery stock standards, proper installation and post installation care. No longer is it acceptable to plant a tree with surface roots to lift a sidewalk, brittle heat of the urban environment. Still, since the public attachment to certain street trees is often emotional rather than based on professional understanding, citizen's preferences are frequently at variance with professional prescription.

Some of the most often recognized ways to bridge the gap are through education, information and opportunities for the public to participate in decision-making. Yet as evidenced in Pasadena, even the best information campaigns may not succeed in convincing the public of the need for a city to replace dozens of trees. As new street tree standards become the norm, however, there is reason to believe that the public's attachment will no longer be merely emotional, but equally based on sound principles of urban arboriculture.

(Continued on Page 2)