



Remember to call Janessa Butts at (626) 744-7432 or email her at jbutts@ci.pasadena.ca.us no later than 4/24/04 with your reservation for the general meeting.

Janessa Butts, Secretary
STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.
P. O. Box 6415
Anaheim, CA 92816-6415

Next Meeting:
TREE INSECT IDENTIFICATION
PRESENTED BY SUSAN SIMS
Sim's Learning Center
6111 Appaloosa—Pedley

MEETING SCHEDULE:
10:30-11:00 Gathering
11:00—12:00 Program
12:00—1:30 Lunch & Meeting

PRICE:
\$15.00 RESERVED
\$20.00 AT THE DOOR

2004 MEETING SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| April 29, 2004 | Tree Insect ID | Sim's Learning Center 6111 Appaloosa, Pedley |
| May 20, 2004 | SCE Bark Beetle Project in the San Bernardino Mountains | Edison's CTAC Facility 6090 N. Irwindale Ave. Irwindale |
| June | Annual Golf Tournament TBA | TBA |
| 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 Avenue -Santa Monica |

JANESSA BUTTS, SECRETARY
STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.
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ANAHEIM, CA 92816-6415

Street Tree Seminar, Inc. Monthly Newsletter



APRIL, 2004

VOLUME X, ISSUE 4

THE DECLINE OF CANARY ISLAND DATE PALMS IN THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

*Presented by Ken Pfalzgraf, Urban Forest Supervisor, City of Beverly Hills
Summarized by Janessa Butts, STS Secretary*

Throughout all of Southern California, Phoenix canariensis palms have been fighting a silent battle against the vascular wilt, *Fusarium oxysporum*. But fear not, this crusade has gained the voice of Ken Pfalzgraf, the Urban Forest Supervisor for the City of Beverly Hills. In his presentation to Street Tree Seminar, Pfalzgraf identified the problems that this pathogen has presented to Beverly Hills and he also outlined strategies to help with managing the City's changing urban forest.

The decline of the *P. canariensis* has posed a substantial problem to Beverly Hills, a city that embraces the palm as its "signature tree". Over the past 40 years, the city has lost over 24% of their palms. The pathogenic *F. oxysporum* reduces water transport up the trunk by infecting the vascular bundles. Ken pointed out that there are two different decline symptomologies. In class one, the palm sustains the disease for as long as a year or two, while in class two, the decline comes on very rapidly. The difference may be a result of the method of infection.

In a class one, infection starts to be seen when a frond shows a one-sided dieback. From this, more leaves show the signs, and eventually the entire crown. This type of infection is a result of inoculation by pruning of the crown. The tree can exist longer in this infected state since the frond petioles have a "hampering" effect on the spread of the pathogen's hyphae. Inoculation by pruning can be reduced if certain cultural practices are followed. This includes pruning only dried fronds and only using pruning saws sterilized at least five minutes in a 1:1 solution of bleach and water.

In a class two infection, all but the current seasons growth turns brown very quickly. The juvenile fronds aren't yet connected to the vascular bundles so they don't show the symptoms immediately. Palms diagnosed as class two are infected through the pneumatode roots, which lead to mass infection of the stem vascular bundles and rapid wilt of the fronds. Excessive soil moisture promotes the development of soil pathogens, so irrigation management is critical in helping palms be less susceptible to this type of infection. Avoid wounding the pneumatode roots at the base, since wounding creates entry points for the pathogen. Also, use the same sterilization procedure for tools used in the root zone as that used in the crown. Since the soil surrounding infected trees is infected as well, and reclamation of infected soils is not feasible, Phoenix palms cannot be used as replacement trees. In addition, *Washingtonia filifera*, *Syagrus romanzoffianum*, *Arcontopheonix cunninghamiana* cannot be planted since they are susceptible as well. *Washingtonia robusta* is a non-susceptible replacement palm, but hardwood trees should not be ruled out as replacements either.

Another problem affecting Canary Island Palms is appropriately termed "Sudden Crown Drop." This phenomenon is characterized by an

(Continued on page 2)



STS President, Greg Monfette greets speaker, Ken Pfalzgraf at the Whittier Transportation Center on March 25, 2004.

UPCOMING MEETING INFO

April 29, 2004
TREE INSECT IDENTIFICATION
PRESENTED BY SUSAN SIMS
Sim's Learning Center
6111 Appaloosa—Pedley



MEETING SCHEDULE:
10:30-11:00 Gathering
11:00—12:00 Program
12:00—1:30 Lunch & Meeting

PRICE:
\$15.00 RESERVED
\$20.00 AT THE DOOR

WHERE TO CONTACT US:

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505 S. Maple Ave.
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1410 E. Everett Place
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714.538.3821

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ON THE WEB:

www.streettreeseinar.com

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2004

President Greg Monfette presided over the meeting at the Whittier Transportation Department. Past Presidents in attendance included Rose Epperson, Al Epperson, Dan Jensen, Al Remyn, and Andy Trotter.

Treasurer's Report- Kevin Holman

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Money Market | \$ 15,210.42 |
| General | \$ 28,397.07 |
| CD | \$104,102.22 |
| Total | \$147,709.71 |

New Members- Pat Duff

Dwight Dueck, City of Glendale; Dan Hardgrove, City of Glendale; Mike Monroe Jose Mercado, Maricopa Horticulture; and Eric Franklin, United Pacific Corporation.

Special Projects – Sergio Hernandez

Several projects have been presented to the Board and will be covered at the next Board meeting.

Announcements

Congratulations to both Al Remyn and Andy Trotter for receiving the National Award from the Boy Scouts of America. They have been instrumental in assisting local scouts to receive the Forestry Merit Badge, the Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge, and the Fish and Wildlife Merit Badge. The merit badge program, which received \$1,500 in funding from STS five years

ago, is still operational today and has produced over 600 merit badges for scouts in Southern California.

The 3rd Edition of the *Street Trees Recommended for Southern California* is in the works and the Publications Committee is gladly accepting your comments on what species should be added or dropped. Post your comment on the STS website at www.streettreeseinar.com.

Raffle Winners

Janessa Butts, Troy Wittenbrook, Derrick Warren, Key Rokosz, Andy Trotter, Ken Pfalzgraf, Robert Sartain, Bob Chavez, and Omar Davis.

Prize Donors

Street Tree Seminar, Inc., West Coast Arborists, Inc., RPW, Bishop, Marvin Gardens, and Ken Pfalzgraf

Next Meeting

Next months meeting will be on April 29th at the Sim's Learning Center located at 6111 Apoloosa in the City of Pedley. If you haven't yet been out the to the Sim's property, be ready for a special treat. Don't miss this month's topic on Tree Insect ID!

Respectfully submitted,

Janessa Butts

Secretary

DECLINE OF CANARY ISLAND PALMS —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

otherwise healthy looking palm crown, which suddenly plummets to earth because of a decayed section on the trunk. This may be caused by an inflorescence aborting due to heavy soil moisture, then decaying in the trunk and resulting in a weak section of the stem. The inflorescence rot may be caused by *F. oxysporum* so, again proper pruning of the fronds are important. Cut the head tight, otherwise, moisture will get in and decay. The ball of the palm can be cut with a chainsaw, but not the live part.

One more issue affecting palms in Beverly Hills isn't caused by a pathogen, but by good old Father Time. Many of the city's Mexican Fan Palms are over 100 feet tall. This is a problem since putting a climber in the tree may lead to trunk failure. This event, called deflection, is caused when the trunk of a palm bends more than 20% of its height.

So what was the City's plan to deal with all these dilemmas? Well, to better understand the scope of the problem, and to begin developing a master plan, the City of Beverly Hills conducted a tree inventory to collect population data. Reports were queried by such data as geographical locations, symptoms, and age so that a trend analysis could be conducted for each street. After the tedious process of data



analysis, solution options and related costs were presented to the park and recreation committees and to city council. The next step in the process was to involve the public through meetings and then through balloting for tree choices. After the results were presented to the appropriate commissions and councils, the master plan was adopted and implementation of the plan began.

As a result of the process, a canary island date palm street tree master plan was developed and published. This document included a population dynamics study, inventory information, and is a good historical source of reference. The master plan calls for a gradual replacement program to deal with the previously mentioned issues. As the infected *P. canariensis* palms are removed, they will be replaced with *W. robusta* palms. At the same time, the very old and tall *W. robusta* palms will be removed and replaced with a hardwood tree chosen for the street. Eventually the entire street will change from the original *P. canariensis*, *W. robusta*, *P. canariensis*, *W. robusta*, to the end result being *W. robusta*, hardwood tree, *W. robusta*, hardwood tree. So, although Beverly Hills may unfortunately lose many of its "signature trees", it will still try to hold onto the palm-lined streets that make it so unmistakably Southern Californian.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STREET TREES—2003 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS

Street Trees Provide Jobs

Submitted by Rhonda Wood, 2003 Scholarship Recipient



As I was preparing to write this essay, I made a list of all the things I could think of that make street trees important in our community. Of course all the normal things came to mind: pollution prevention, energy cost savings,

aesthetics, historical value, & increased property values, just to mention a few, but what came to mind that is very important to me personally is that street trees provide jobs!

As a Certified Arborist & Tree Worker myself, I am very familiar with what goes along with planting a tree. In fact, even before you plant a tree, there are countless jobs that are created. In most cases it starts with a design. Landscape architects design where trees go and what kind of trees to plant. Then of course there is the nursery & plant propagation business that supplies the demand for trees in a community.

One of my jobs as an arborist and tree worker for the Disneyland Resort is to select quality grown trees that can handle the different environmental conditions at the Resort, which in a lot of cases fall under the street tree category. To do this I often visit nurseries throughout Southern California and every where I've gone, I seen hundreds of workers maintaining these trees by mixing soils, transitioning trees form 1 gal containers on up to 48" boxes, pruning, applying integrated pest management (IPM), installing proper irrigation etc. There are also the tree transplant crews that box and move mature trees with cranes from different locations. Finally there are the people who sell all these trees too. I'm always very impressed by the amount of work that goes into a landscape, before it is even planted!

Once the trees are planted, be it in a city, a business, or a resort property, these trees need to be maintained. And who is going to do that? TREE WORKERS! These crews are the heart of what makes up thousands of jobs in the southland urban forest. These jobs can be associated with government positions or California's economy, as well as the National economy. These crews take care of everything from planting, to pruning, to tree removing to name a few.

Besides these crews there are also specialty jobs that are associated with tree care such as IPM, tree irrigation design and installation, designing and creating tree inventory populations, consulting arborists, tree equipment suppliers, and safety trainers for tree workers. In some cases these specialty jobs are within a large tree care company, and in other cases they make up entire companies themselves.

As impressive as all these jobs may be, there is still one part of the industry that is missing. And that is where you folks at STS come in, and other organizations and education institutions like you. The ISA, SMA, TCIA, as well as schools and universities with arboriculture programs, are what bind this industry together. Without it, architects, nurserymen, tree workers, arborists and everyone else associated with the industry, wouldn't have a direction or a home base to get the information we need to do our jobs. Without the voice of urban forestry, most of the workers in this industry wouldn't have access to information such as the ANSI standards of the tree care industry or OSHA safety regulations required to do our job correctly and safely. Therefore educators make up an important part of urban forestry. The bottom line is trees make up thousands of jobs. Thousands of jobs help our economy. And if somehow you wound up in this industry, like me, and are lucky enough, those jobs will turn in to fulfilling careers. So if you never thought about it before, next time you drive down a street lined with gorgeous trees, think of all the people it took to put them there. Without us, Southern California's urban forest would be an urban desert.

About the Author

Rhonda is currently attending Mt. San Antonio in Walnut. She presently is studying in Horticulture and Tree Care & Park Management. At the present time she has earned 113 credits with Her cumulative GPA at 3.15. Rhonda has numerous memberships in various organizations. She is a Certified Arborist since 1999, an ISA member, Western Chapter Certified Tree Worker and Western Chapter ISA member. She had begun her career in working with Hayes Nursery as a caretaker from 1993-1996. In 1997, until the present, she is a cast member at Disneyland in Anaheim. Rhonda is a frequently judge for the Western Chapter ISA - Tree worker Certification exam. Rhonda has one more semester at Mt. SAC and will then goes on to CSU Fullerton. At the same time she will be working full time at Disneyland. One of her goals is to be a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists. Other goals are: learning Spanish and getting more women involved in tree climbing competitions with ISA.



INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MARCH 29-31, 2004

TREES AND UTILITIES
11TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Embassy Suites—Omaha, Nebraska
CONTACT: NADF—402.474.5655

APRIL 23, 2004

CREATING A FIREWISE COMMUNITY
-A CaUFC Regional Workshop
John Ferraro Building-Los Angeles, CA
CONTACT: CaUFC—707.524.1170

MAY 9-13, 2004

EDUCATION BY ASSOCIATION
WCISA ANNUAL MEETING
Konociti Lodge—Clear Lake, CA
CONTACT: WCISA—530.892.1118