



Remember to call
Janessa Butts at (626)
744-7432 or email her at
jbutts@ci.pasadena.ca.us
no later than 2/14/04
with your reservation for
the general meeting.

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

Next Meeting:
FEBRUARY 19, 2004
State Forestry Tree Grants
John Melvin, CDF
Santa Clarita Sports Center
Santa Clarita, CA
HOSTED BY TRUGREEN
LANDCARE, INC.

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

PRICE:
\$5.00 RESERVED

WTMS DRAWING RESULTS

Drawing prizes donated by the following: RPW Services, Street Tree Seminar, Mauget, Target Specialty Products, West Coast Arborists, Bishop Supply, Inc., Al Remyn, Walter Wariner, Edison, Century Products and Gail Materials.

Winners included: Ross Montes, John Winter, Jim Kolbach, Melvin Crudge, Rene Emeterio, Bob Hansen, Vidal Millan, Jim Klinger, Jr., Jeff Peterson, Jack Mooring, Thai Le, David Lomel, Greg Monfette, Shelly Bachelder, Janessa Butts, Bill Trotter, Carl Mellinger, Valin Gray, Bino Fermin Holguin, Dave Dockter, Adrian Sanchez, Gregg Mathew, Robert Olivas, William Quinliuan, Dave Hayes, George Pardo, Mikael Ottoson, Kurt Rahn, Shawn Wendt, Jeff Peterson, Martin Morales, Roger Blais, Kenny Graham, Mike Murphy, Dan Condon, Grand Prize Winner : Jose Gonzales

2004 MEETING SCHEDULE

February 19, 2004	State Forestry Tree Grants John Melvin, CDF HOSTED BY TRUGREEN LANDCARE, INC.	Santa Clarita Sports Center Santa Clarita, CA
March 18, 2004	TBA	Whittier Transportation Dept. 7333 Greenleaf, Whittier
April 29, 2004	Tree Insect ID	Sim's Learning Center Pedley, CA
May 20, 2004	TBA Southern Cal Edison	TBA

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

Street Tree Seminar, Inc. Monthly Newsletter



FEBRUARY, 2004

VOLUME X, ISSUE 2

ARBORICULTURE: THE FULL CIRCLE—An overview of WTMS Presentations

Street Tree Seminar's annual educational meeting was held on January 22, 2004, at the beautiful Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia. STS President, Greg Monfette, presided over the program. Many thanks to all of the superb speakers, volunteers, and exhibitors who helped make the day.

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ARBORICULTURE – Dr. Jim Clark, Hortscience, Inc.

As tree development changes with time, so must tree care. Trees grow rapidly when young and reach their mature height relatively early in their life cycle. Over time, the focus of our care transitions from developing good structure and fostering growth to provide stability. Tree care is a long-term, low intensity process. Arborists must recognize that treatments such as transplanting, pruning and pest management treatments can be stress factors. Our programs must minimize changes around the tree. Therefore, arboricultural treatments should be provided in small doses over the long term, and anticipate a slow response from the tree.

Tree care is founded on the principals of plant health care. Pest management and tree management cannot be separated. When we maintain health and vigor, the tree will be most resistant to stress of all types. The converse is also true, that pest management involves tree management. The control of many of the significant pests of trees is based upon cultural treatments such as pruning and irrigation. Tree care applies general concepts to specific genotypes. We apply tree care practices such as pruning and irrigation based upon the requirements of individual genera, species or cultivar. In tree care, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure because we have a limited ability to cure. Trees grow in a manner that accumulates history and treatment. We strive to take a positive, proactive approach to avoiding significant changes to the tree's growing environment and factors that predispose the tree to stress and decline.

Good trees and tree care starts with quality plants. There is no substitute for a quality plant, either as nursery stock or an existing tree. Tree selection is founded on "Right plant, right place." We can do little to change either the physical environment or the characteristics of the tree itself. We should strive to select species and cultivars adapted to each particular site or growing situation. We should "know the place, select the plant."

Arboriculture treatments can have either positive benefits or negative consequences. While arborists like to think of common tree care practices as being solely positive, the reality is that some of our efforts may have negative effects on tree growth.

Tree health and hazard are not equivalent. Tree health and structural stability are related but not equivalent. Arboriculture and forestry are related but not equivalent fields. We must be aware that arborist and foresters bring vastly different perspectives to trees and their care.

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

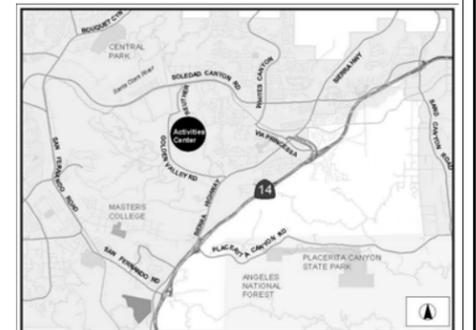
STREET TREE SEMINAR is comprised of Street Tree Superintendents, supervising personnel, professional consultants, arborists, individuals and firms whose businesses are related to street tree management.

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.



UPCOMING MEETING INFO

February 19, 2004
STATE FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAMS
PRESENTED BY JOHN MELVIN, CDF
Santa Clarita Activities Center
20880 Center Point Pkwy
Santa Clarita
call for directions-661-294-2500
HOSTED BY TRUGREEN LANDCARE



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

PRICE:
\$5.00 RESERVED

DON'T FORGET TO RSVP

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City of Pasadena
100 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91109
626.744.7432

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TruGreen Landcare
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562.464.3375

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626.331.4666

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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.streettreeseminar.com

WTMS HIGHLIGHTS—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

GUIDELINE SPECIFICATIONS FOR NURSERY TREE QUALITY – Brian Kempf, Urban Tree Foundation

The intent of the guideline specifications is to help landscape professionals develop their own comprehensive and detailed specifications to ensure that they obtain high quality container grown nursery stock. The document is also intended to help nursery professionals in their efforts to improve the quality of trees grown in California

Historically, nurseries have headed back trees to promote branching, but have resulted in poor structure. Although it is best to avoid heading back, young trees can be topped to promote branching, provided a central leader is retained. If a central leader is not evident, a new leader can be directed with tape to grow upright. Young trees can also be restructured to have a central leader by using the drop crotch technique. If the tree has co-dominant branching, appropriate pruning can hold growth of one branch back, while allowing the new leader to develop. Temporary branches should be left on the tree, even if they are cut back, due to their positive affect trunk caliper and taper. Young trees should be pruned in pyramid form with the branch size in small relation to the trunk.

Staking also is a significant factor in young tree growth. The side of the tree that is blocked from the sun by the stake grows faster and results in the bending of the tree. If flexible bamboo is used on nursery stock in place of the standard nursery stake, this problem can be reduced. In addition, roots of nursery stock should be pruned to prevent circling in the container. Pruning of larger roots in the liner is acceptable. For more details and information regarding the guideline specifications for nursery tree quality visit <http://urbantree.org/pdf/specs10-13.pdf>

AMENDING THE SOIL: “WHEN AND HOW” – Dennis Pittenger, U.C. Cooperative Extension

In most urban areas, soils are modified in construction. These modifications can present problems for establishing and maintaining landscapes because aeration, water movement and root growth are compromised. Because of these issues, amending soil is frequently considered essential in establishing new plantings. While many plants will benefit from fertilizer applied at or shortly after planting, there is no research data to support routine amendment of tree and shrub planting holes unless an extreme problem exists. Amendment should be done only if a site analysis uncovers an extreme soil problem that amendment can alleviate. When using amendments, we are concerned with both the physical and chemical characteristics of the soil.

Physical characteristic of soil that should be analyzed include texture, bulk density, and drainage. Compacted soils can usually be most effectively improved by physically breaking them up with digging, deep ripping or plowing to a depth of 24 inches prior to planting rather than



by mixing in amendment. Use of physical amendments, such as sand or organic materials, is recommended primarily when soils are extremely high in clay or sand. Sand is effective in improving clayey soil, granted that at least 45% of the total amended volume is sand. For organic amendments, a total of at least 30% is effective when amending soils. Nitrogen fertilizer should be incorporated with material at a rate of 1 to 3 lbs. nitrogen /1000 sq. ft. of area amended.

Chemical tests of soil should determine pH, soluble salts, nutrients, and sodium levels. Most plants grow best in a pH range of 6.5 to 7.5. The pH levels of most California soils are too alkaline. The pH can be lowered by amending with elemental sulfur, iron sulfate, or aluminum sulfate in calcareous soils or through the use of acidifying fertilizers such as ammonium sulfate. Approximately 12 to 20 lbs of sulfur/1000 sq. ft of area is needed to reduce pH from 8.0 to 6.5. Multiple applications in 2 to 4 lb increments are suggested to prevent damage to plants. Dispersed soils with poor water infiltration caused by high concentrations of sodium, also called sodic soils, can be improved by adding gypsum. Gypsum will not improve water infiltration and structure of soils that are not sodic. Applications of gypsum at 20-lbs./100 sq. ft. followed by repeated leaching with water can effectively reduce soil sodium concentrations and improve water infiltration.

TRAINING YOUNG TREES FOR STRUCTURE AND FORM – Larry Costello, U.C. Cooperative Extension

Many or most trees are not pruned correctly, or at all, when young. The usual response is that "we can't afford to", but the real answer is that we can't afford not to. Reasons for pruning young trees are numerous and include the following:

1. Trained trees are structurally stronger, which reduces their failure potential as they mature.
2. Trained trees are less costly to maintain. By training young trees, you can avoid costs associated with poorly structured trees.
3. Trained trees have a greater potential to be longer lived.

Five steps for young tree pruning can be applied to most trees.

1. Remove broken, dead or dying, diseased or damaged limbs.
2. Select and establish a central leader.
3. Select and establish the lowest permanent branch.
4. Select and establish scaffold branches.
5. Select temporary branches below the lowest permanent branch.

If co-dominant, cut back one side all the way or halfway back. If it is a faster growing species, cut all the way back. The height of the lowest permanent branch is usually 12-13 feet over the street, and 8 feet over the side-

WTMS HIGHLIGHTS—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

walk. Be sure to select strongly attached branches for the lower permanent branches. They should be less than half the diameter of the trunk, with the branch bark ridge evident, and void from included bark. Scaffold branches should be strongly attached and well spaced vertically and radially. The branches between the scaffold branches should be cut back to allow the scaffold to grow more vigorously. As for the temporary branches, large diameter branches should be removed because they could compete with the permanent branches. Leave smaller branches, since they provide trunk shading, promote caliper development, and reduce vandalism.

BEST PRUNING PRACTICES – Robert Phillips, Consulting Arborist, WCISA President

Arborists are faced with many decisions when pruning trees. To help with these decisions, proper pruning practices have been established based on tree growth responses. The first decision made is when to prune. This is based on the phenology of the plant. Next, determine what will be pruned, which includes dead, dying and weak limbs, as well as crossing, diseased and hazardous branches. The size and form of the tree should also be considered. Their are several types of tree pruning concepts which includes remedial, restructuring, directional, drop crotching, size reduction, and for plant health reasons.

Tree thinning can help to reduce the weight on heavy limbs, and can also help to control the height of a tree. It should be noted that excessive thinning could be as destructive as topping. When crown thinning a mature tree, it is recommended that you don't remove more than one third of the live foliage. At least one half of the foliage should be on branches that arise in the lower two thirds of the tree. The standards are present as working guidelines recognizing that trees are individually unique in form and structure, and that their pruning needs may not always fit strict rules. Most pruning is a compromise between trees and people, and arborist provide the necessary link between the two.

INNOVATIVE WAYS TO MINIMIZE INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE AND INTRODUCTION OF THE SIDEWALK COMPENDIUM – Larry Costello, U.C. Cooperative Extension

While trees provide many benefits, one of the downsides is the conflict with hardscape items such as sidewalks, curbs, and streets. Many new strategies and techniques are being developed and tested to reduce hardscape damage caused by trees. When pressured by tree roots, concrete sidewalks crack and lift. A possible remedy may be to construct control joints within the concrete, so that the sidewalk lifts as a ramp when pushed upon by roots. Another option would be the use of pervious concrete. It has a similar strength to standard concrete, yet allows air exchange and water flow to the soil underneath which contributes to better root distribution.

Alternatives to concrete include asphalt, decomposed granite and pavers. While asphalt and decomposed granite are inexpensive, but they require maintenance due to displacement and erosion. Pavers top of list in appearance and cost, but when repairing damages caused by roots, only the influenced area needs replacing. Recycled rubber pavers are another exciting option. The paver modules lift in unison as the tree roots expand. One drawback is the sand base into which roots will grow.

Other rootzone based strategies involve root guidance systems, such as root barriers and root tunnels. Root barriers are available in both

circular and linear configurations, but better results can be found using linear barriers in conjunction with root pruning. The concept of root paths and tunnels involves the use of continuous trenches that guide roots under sidewalks to desirable areas, such as lawns. Additional strategies included planting street trees in continuous trenches instead of cut outs, installing foam underlays beneath sidewalks, and the use of load bearing structural soils.

TREE PRESERVATION DURING CONTRUCTION – Dr. Jim Clark, Hortscience, Inc.

"Tree preservation cannot wait until construction." This is a guiding principle for the arborist overseeing any project involving tree preservation. If preservation hasn't been incorporated into the approved plans before construction, it will be very difficult to add it during construction. Arborist's commonly have five tasks during the construction phase:

1. Protect the Tree Protection Zone.
2. Assist with changes in the field.
3. Monitor injury to trees and provide corrective action.
4. Communicate with the project superintendent.
5. Facilitate completion of the project.

Site monitoring is critical for the arborist to ensure that all regulations and requirements imposed on the project are being met. Upon each visit, the arborist must identify any existing or developing tree related problems and discuss any new designs or issues with the project superintendent. The consultant must monitor and ensure the integrity of the Tree Protection Zone. Any tree injury that has occurred must be documented, in addition to any unusual changes in tree appearance. If treatments are recommended, the arborist must confirm that the necessary actions have been applied. In addition, any new changes or action items must be addressed until the project has reached completion. One of the most critical factors in the success of a tree preservation project is the commitment of the project superintendent. It is important for the consultant communicate to them the need for tree protection.

ENFORCEMENT OF MUNICIPAL TREE ORDINANCES & THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL – Dave Dockter, City of Palo Alto

The overall objective of municipal tree ordinances is to provide safe and attractive community forests. But based on a survey of California municipalities, creative approaches may be necessary for enforcement. The State of California mandates and empowers each city adopt a set of rules and regulations to govern their city. According to State law, a violation of a municipal code is a misdemeanor, which may include incarceration in county jail, community service and/or fines. Most tree cases can usually be filed in this category.

In establishing your case for enforcement, the violation must be determined by a code section. The next step would be a notice of violation. The party should receive a written notice with the code section cited, the response expected, and/or the date response is expected. Building permit violations may use handwritten correction notices. These are compliance oriented (ex: arborist action needed, correction of soil, fencing repair, etc). Tree ordinance violations are more serious. Thorough documentation is needed such as staff appraisal, photos, referral to code enforcement or attorney. Documenting your activity and the chain of events is critical.

