



# STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

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STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC. - Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

# STS Newsletter

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**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011**  
**City of San Dimas**  
*The Highlights of the City of San Dimas, A Small Community Focus*

## 2011/12 MEETING SCHEDULE

October 20th	The Highlights of the City of San Dimas	The Walker House 121 N. San Dimas Avenue, San Dimas
December 15th	Annual Scholarship Awards Hosted by STS	Kellogg West 3801 W. Temple Avenue, Pomona
<b>2012</b>		
January 13th	Western Tree Management Symposium **Note - different venue!!!	The Huntington Library & Gardens 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

### MISSION STATEMENT

*"To promote the advancement of urban forestry and provide a forum for tree care professionals to share their experiences, knowledge, and expertise for the benefit of the membership and the enhancement of Southern California's community forests."*

### VISION STATEMENT

*"To enhance the health and beauty of Southern California cities by improving the quality of our community forests."*

Remember to email Robert Sartain @ [RSartain@santa-clarita.com](mailto:RSartain@santa-clarita.com) with your reservation

## Parkway trees, oaks & ordinances of Santa Clarita

By Robert Sartain, Secretary

The August meeting took place in the City of Santa Clarita. The main topic was a presentation by City of Santa Clarita staff on the urban forestry program and the city's Oak Tree Ordinance. Robert Sartain, the supervisor for urban forestry division, started with a PowerPoint presentation on the history and management of the urban forest.



The history included a description of the interactions of native people using oak trees as trail markers by bending them in an arch above the ground. In later times, oaks were cut during railroad days and used extensively to heat kilns. Gold and oil were first discovered in California in Santa Clarita during the 1900's, which lead to explosive population growth in the valley. The City was incorporated in 1987 and passed the oak tree ordinance on the first night of proceedings. Currently, the City covers 53 square miles with annexations proposed of another 16 square miles. The current population is 176,971 and the annexation would add another 45,000 residents. Santa Clarita sits in a valley surrounded by several mountain ranges. The foothills that border the community have a repeat history of wildfires. The climate is extreme, with high temps in the 100's and lows that can reach the 20's. Coupled with seasonal high winds, these extremes result in a limited tree pallet for planting. Common trees planted in the valley include oaks, sycamore, ash, elms, Chinese pistache, camphor, liquidambar.

The current tree inventory includes approximately 52,000 trees in the urban forestry division and another 38,000 trees in the Landscape Maintenance Division (LMD). That is a combined total of about 90,000 trees citywide. Urban Forestry also manages the trees for the Parks department, which includes trees in 27 parks and along 60 miles of trails and other facilities. Santa Clarita's UF management staff consists of a supervisor, an assistant supervisor, and two inspectors. One inspector is the Oak Tree Specialist, who oversees

and manages the City Oak Tree Ordinance. The other inspector is the Tree Inspector for the LMD, who performs inspections and manages the tree contractors for the overall maintenance program. For Urban Forestry, inspections are done by the Assistant Supervisor, along with contract management and staff supervision. There are also three full time field staff, four temps and an intern. Collectively, staff responds to over 180 calls per month.

The city started an updated tree inventory three years ago with the help of a state grant. Currently, the inventory is 2/3 finished with ongoing efforts to complete the balance in two years. Urban Forestry has a 5-6 year trim cycle divided into 13 neighborhood grid zones citywide. The 27 parks and 60-miles of trails are maintained on an average 3-4 year cycle. The LMD has an average three year trim cycle for their 40 separate maintenance zones. The LMD has trees along major road medians, paseos and parks. They work closely with HOA's and businesses. The overall Urban Forestry budget is \$1,332,292. There is \$661,105 for staff and the balance of \$671,187 for general operations and contracting. The current annual tree contractor budget is \$525,000. That leaves a balance of \$138,000 for miscellaneous tree operations and public outreach.

Some of the City's special events include a large annual Earth Arbor Day celebration, and Oak Tree Day celebrated in "Oaktober". Staff also participate in the annual Make a Difference Day and multiple community outreach tree plantings at local schools and neighborhoods. At Earth Arbor Day, the City gives out 1,000 one-gallon trees free to local residents.

*(Continued on page 3)*

NEXT MEETING!

### Join us for our next meeting on October 20, 2011

**The Highlights of the City of San Dimas, A Small Community Focus Round Table Discussion to follow (send topics to [jconway@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:jconway@newportbeachca.gov))**

**LOCATION: WALKER HOUSE - 121 N. SAN DIMAS AVENUE, SAN DIMAS**

**TIME:** 10:30am, a 1 hour program which will include the topic & a presentation & tour of the Walker House history, followed by lunch, raffle, and thereafter, a 20 minute walking tour of San Dimas's downtown trees, the Tree Trek.

**COST:** \$15.00 RESERVED \$20.00 AT THE DOOR!

### Business Meeting - August 18, 2011

STS President, Wayne Smith presided over the business portion of the meeting. Past Presidents in attendance were: Dan Jensen, Kevin Holman and Walt Warriner.

Thomas Shoots from Cal Fire announced the current round of State tree grants available to urban forestry programs. Currently, there are \$5 million in funds for six different programs. The cutoff date for application is September 23, 2011.

Walt Warriner, the Community Forester from the City of Santa Monica, gave an update on the Street Tree Seminar book that is in development. Walt provided a list of trees that he needs pictures of and contact information on where to send the photos.

Also in attendance were representative from the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), Jerri LaHaie and Melanie Kirk. They explained the Intern Program that is available to municipal arborists. By contacting SMA, you can apply for a college intern to work as your assistant. These are career oriented students majoring in Urban Forestry.

Raffle prizes were furnished by STS, John Conway, Emina Dararkjy, Fred Roth, Wayne Smith, Robert Sartain, Roy Boak Tree Service and RPW. Tickets drawn belonged to Paul Zaragoza, Ann Hope, Kevin Holman, Robert Sartain, Rene Hernandez, Sean Brown, Darya Barar, Joseph Rowles, Emina Darakjy, Johnny Aguila, Felix Miramontez, Frank Madero, Larry Bracken, Nancy Gilbert, Lisa Madero and Dagoberto Rodriguez.

See you in San Dimas on October 20th!

### Santa Clarita - Ahead of the times in Oak Tree Ordinance

During the August General Meeting, Wayne Smith, City of Santa Clarita Oak Tree Specialist spoke on the City's Oak Tree Ordinance, permit process and requirements for both residential and commercial development and the residential permit process.

The City's oak tree ordinance was adopted April 25, 1989. The ordinance was created to protect and preserve all native oak trees located throughout the City of Santa Clarita. Prior to adopting the oak tree ordinance, development throughout the Santa Clarita Valley had resulted in the removal of many oak trees. The City of Santa Clarita oak tree ordinance protects all indigenous oak trees including scrub oak that measure two inches in diameter and larger for all development projects. An oak tree permit is required anytime a person or entity presents a project that impacts an oak tree. The City of Santa Clarita has several different oak tree permits that are available. Encroachment and removal permits vary in price based upon the number of oak trees impacted. Impacts to 1-3 trees will fall under the lower permit fee and impacts to 4 or more trees will require the higher permit fee (for developers). For residents living in a single-family home, impacts to 1-5 trees will fall into the lower permit fee and impacts to 6 or more trees will fall under the higher permit fee. Mitigation is required for any tree that is impacted and varies based upon the type of impact. When an oak tree is approved for removal, the applicant is required to mitigate for the ISA dollar value of the tree (developers only). Mitigation for single family residents varies based upon the size of the oak tree. Oak tree impact reports and on-site monitoring are required for both developers and residents.

The City of Santa Clarita also has two types of oak tree pruning permits. For commercial properties a standard pruning permit may be issued for a nominal fee. The applicant is issued a standard set of Conditions of Approval that discuss the type of pruning which may be performed. All pruning is required to be compliant with the ISA Pruning Standards and must follow all ANSI A-300 regulations and BMP's. A "NO FEE" permit may be issued to any resident of a single family home that hires a tree contractor who is an ISA certified arborist and / or employs an ISA certified arborist on their staff.

The City of Santa Clarita Oak Tree Specialist works closely with other internal departments such as Planning, Engineering, Building & Safety and Traffic to insure the preservation of oak trees. Application forms includes language that requires the applicant to disclose any oak trees that are located on site or off site that may be impacted as a result of the proposed project. City projects are also brought to the attention of Urban Forestry and the Oak Tree Specialist prior to going to bid so that the preservation of oak trees will be included in the bid process.

The City of Santa Clarita Oak Tree Specialist conducts weekly inspections for both commercial and residential projects, meets with residents on a weekly basis to discuss the current health and condition of their oak trees, reviews and provides comments and conditions for both residential and commercial projects, represents Urban Forestry at Planning Commission and City Council meetings for all projects that involve oak trees. For more information on the City of Santa Clarita Oak Tree Ordinance you can contact Wayne Smith at (661) 294-2548 or visit the City's website at [www.santa-clarita.com](http://www.santa-clarita.com).



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### Highlights from August General Meeting - continued

Earth Arbor Day includes over 70 vendors, exhibitors, and entertainment for all members of the community. During the celebration, over 50 trees are planted at the site. The City of Santa Clarita has been a Tree City USA since 1990. Currently the City has received 21 consecutive Tree City USA awards. In addition, the City has received four Growth Awards from the National Arbor Day Foundation and three Gold Leaf Awards from the ISA.

Urban Forestry hosts an annual Bird Nesting Training and invites local tree contractors and related staff for an educational presentation on the Federal and State laws protecting nesting birds in trees. Also, every other year Wayne Smith, the City Oak Tree Specialist, puts on a community workshop on the care of oak trees in Santa Clarita and understanding the Oak Tree Ordinance. These trainings and workshops help to educate the public and contractors on the rules, regulations, policies and procedures for better management of the urban forest and the environment.

UF staff also participates in the annual Sidewalk Rehabilitation Project and Asphalt Overlay Projects. These projects repair public hardscape and roadways that are damaged by street trees. Each year, the projects involve hundreds of trees at various locations city-wide. At each site, the tree is inspected and evaluated for possible root pruning or other methods to correct the hardscape displacement. Some of the regular options to major root pruning involve; meandering the sidewalk, enlargement of the tree well, ramping and/ or reducing the size of the sidewalk. However, many trees are root pruned and their canopies trimmed to compensate for loss of structural support. Some trees are removed when there is no reasonable alternative to correct the problem. Most of the removed trees are mature, large-sized species, such as Aleppo Pines, California Sycamores, and others that have outgrown the parkway. The removal locations are replanted with a more size-appropriate tree as part of a reforestation project for the street. An-

other experimental option being used is placement of BioBarrier fabric to delay the return of roots under hardscape. The city has been using this product in selected locations over the last four years to determine if the product will extend hardscape life. There have been various installation methods used to measure the success over time.

Another key component of the UF Program is grant funding. One recent grant was the CalFire Tree Inventory Grant. This grant is facilitating collection of data on over 50,000 street and LMD trees. Using Arbor Pro software, data collection includes GPS points and multiple criteria about the trees. Currently, the project is about 2/3 complete for all the City trees with most of the work remaining includes LMD trees. The City is looking to reapply for a second-round grant from CalFire to complete the project. Another grant in use is the AQMD Tree Planting Grant. This grant allows for the planting of 350 new trees that are California natives along our City trail system. The goal of the grant is to offset pollution and improve the air quality of the City. Both Grants have been successful in improving the urban forest and enabling the hiring of temporary staff to help with the projects.

The future of Urban Forestry will involve more technology with tablet computers to perform inspections and update work history. Also, there are plans to integrate the service request system with the tree inventory. This will help expedite inspections and work orders for staff and the contractors. Currently, the contractors work history is being input into the Arbor Pro system. Other goals of the UF Division are to continue to apply for state CalFire grants related to Urban Forestry and to eventually develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan.



A huge THANKS to our lunch host!

### Get involved in a BIGGER way - Serve on the STS Board of Directors

Ever consider how you could make a difference in the community where you live or work? Become part of the Street Tree Seminar leadership and find out just how easy it is when you work together with leaders in other communities.

Past President, Cy Carlberg, is accepting nominations to serve STS in a bigger way. If you are interested in getting more involved or want to nominate a colleague, contact Cy by email at: [cy@cycarlberg.com](mailto:cy@cycarlberg.com). Cy has served the organization for almost a decade.

Nominations will be announced at the October meeting. An electronic ballot will be sent out in November.