



# STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council  
P.O. Box 6415  
Anaheim, CA 92816-6415



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

# STS Newsletter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 1

## Highlights from WTMS – “It Takes a Team to Manage Our Urban Forest”

By Christy Cuba, Secretary

The 2012 Western Tree Management Symposium (WTMS), held at the beautiful Huntington Gardens in San Marino, was all about teamwork. The theme was reinforced and highlighted throughout the day as the Huntington staff, our talented guest speakers, and the STS board members worked together to put on an informative, interesting, and at times electrifying, program for our members.

wound response. Specific treatment options for conifer bark beetles, bacterial and yellowing diseases, fireblight, and bacterial leaf scorch were discussed, along with advice on the various windows of control for each. Overall, we learned that there are many precise options available for the treatment of specific tree pests and diseases, as well as cultural support with micronutrients and fertilizers.

Starting off the day was the team of Lynnette Short and Thomas Shoots of the CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Program with a discussion on “Amping Up Your Urban Forestry Program with State Supported Programs and Tools”. They provided current examples of how groups such as ReLeaf, CAUFC, the TreePeople’s Citizen Forester Program, and Sac Tree Foundation’s GreenPrint program are fostering advocacy and education of state and local decision makers, as well as encouraging community involvement and education on Urban Forestry issues. Thomas and Lynnette explained the benefits of partnering up with non-profits, other cities, and the CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Program to take advantage of the tools that have already been developed such as the “Urban Forestry Economics Fact Sheet”, i-Tree, [www.ufmptoolkit.com](http://www.ufmptoolkit.com), and the Tree Carbon Calculator. In addition, they discussed the promotion of Arbor Week in California and the fact that last year, the California State Assembly and Senate approved a Resolution establishing March 7-14 of each year as California Arbor Week. The measure urges all California residents to observe the week with appropriate tree planting activities and programs. With their connections statewide, teaming up with CAL FIRE is a sure-fire way to keep your UF program current and connected.



Attendees had the opportunity to network with Mauget and RPW Services during the breaks.

Then, Maria D’Agostino, City of San Francisco, provided a 25 year history of the UC Cooperative Extension’s California Tree Failure Reporting Program (CTFRP). Created in 1987, the program was intended to set up a dynamic database of tree failure facts that could be accessed and utilized in both the private and public sectors in the planning and management of our urban forests. The program went live on the web in 1997 and by 2001 had over 3000 failure reports logged in. As of January 2012, more than 5,000 reports have been filed (a prize-winning number of them by Maria herself!). In addition to the CTFRP, there is now an International Tree Failure Database. The two databases have merged to form a massive collective of tree failure information that anyone can access and track with common software such as Microsoft Access. Reporting is

easy on premade forms available online and it is okay to leave some blanks... the most important thing is to report the failures you see with as much information as you can. For those interested, a training session will be held in April at Descanso Gardens. Maria wrapped up her talk with a friendly, competitive challenge to the southern Californian team of tree care professionals – get those reports in!

Next up was Dave Shaw, Farm Advisor with UC Cooperative Extension, San Diego County, presenting “Partners in Plant Health Care – Teaming Up with Cooperative Extension”. Dave provided an in-depth look at the academic resources available in California for the tree care professional. We learned about the many ways in which the University of California supports and contributes to the industry. Advisors are available to assist with Environmental Horticulture and Sciences, Entomology, Botany and Plant Sciences, and Plant Pathology. They perform research, publish articles and advisory notices, and provide all manner of research-based information to the public. With more than 10 U.C. Farm Advisors currently working in arboricultural research and out-reach statewide, teaming up with your local UC Cooperative Extension will add a network of knowledge to your urban forestry program.

After Maria’s challenge, everyone got a late morning jolt of excitement when William Hallett and Karli Massey of Southern California Edison presented the group with “Electrical Safety: A Live Wire Demonstration”. This informative presentation provided a sobering reminder of the importance of practicing safety around power lines and knowing what to do in an electrical emergency. William and Karli provided practical guidelines for understanding safe work practices around electricity. They noted that injuries happen with new workers who don’t know the rules and with older workers who become complacent. Everyone should be aware that it is okay to stop work until it is safe. *The first step to*



Live electrical demonstrations by Edison illustrated the dangers of common tree worker situations.

*not being injured is knowing that you can be injured. Know the dangers! Power lines are not covered with insulation. Electricity travels at the speed of light; you cannot outrun it – it travels to the ground the quickest and easiest way it can. William and Karli went on to explain about “touch potential”, “ground potential”, why birds on the wire don’t always get electrocuted, and what to do in different emergency situations. The highlight of their presentation was a series of live electrical demonstrations at model scale to illustrate the dangers of common tree worker situations. The take-away lesson – keep vehicles, equipment, tools and people AT LEAST 10 feet away from overhead power lines and call the utility if you must work closer. More information is available from SCE or your local utility company.*

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Thursday, March 15, 2012**  
**City of Burbank**  
Hosted by Davey

## 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

March 15	STRATUM Analysis & Shade Tree Canopy Speaker: Dana Karcher, Davey Resource Group	City of Burbank Comm. Services Building 150 North 3rd St., Rm 104, Burbank
May 17	Significant Trees of Elysian Park Speakers: Jorge Ochoa & Laura Bauernfiend	Grace E. Simons Lodge 1025 Elysian Park Drive, Los Angeles
June 21	*NEW* WTMS Summer Program	Phoenix Club 1340 S. Sanderson Ave., Anaheim
July 19 (tent.)	Golf Tournament	Robinson Ranch - Santa Clarita
Aug. 16 (tent.)	TBD	TBD
Oct. 18 (tent.)	TBD	Santa Clarita
Dec. 13	Annual Scholarship Awards/Officer Inst.	Kellogg West @ Cal Poly Pomona, CA

### 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 Christy Cuba @ [christy@cycarlberg.com](mailto:christy@cycarlberg.com) with your reservation

NEXT MEETING!

### Join us for our next meeting

March 15, 2012

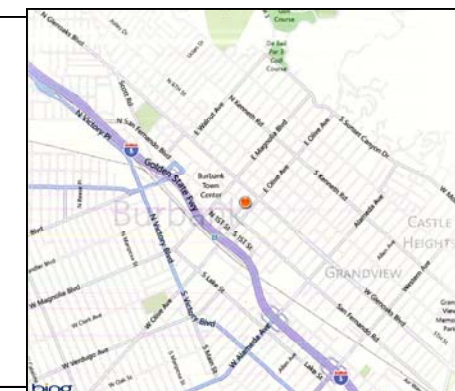
STRATUM Analysis & Shade Tree Canopy  
Presented by Dana Karcher, Davey Resource Group

#### LOCATION:

CITY OF BURBANK— COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING  
150 NORTH 3RD STREET, RM 104 BURBANK, CA

TIME: 10: 30 AM

COST: \$5 DONATION TO STS SCHOLARSHIP FUND (LUNCH HOSTED BY DAVEY)



### Business Meeting - December, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Wayne Smith. After introductions, the 2011 Scholarships were awarded by Al Remyn. Congratulations to all our Scholarship recipients. They will be featured individually in the STS News throughout 2012. Our 2012 board was inducted by Rose Epperson with Wayne Smith passing the gavel to John Conway for the next term of office.

**Past Presidents in Attendance:** Al Remyn, Wayne Smith, Rose Epperson, Dan Jensen, Cy Carlberg, Kevin Holman

**Raffle Prizes Donated By:** RPW Services, City of Santa Clarita, City of Newport Beach, STS, Mauget and Epicenter Management.

**Raffle Winners-** Heather Crippen, Wayne Smith, Christy Cuba, Robert Sartain, Mia, Nate Dodds, Emina Darakjy, Al Remyn, Dave Lannom, Amber Crisp, Cy Carlberg and Fred Roth

Please join us for our next meeting March 15th in Burbank.- STRATUM Analysis & Shade Tree Canopy - hosted by Davey Resource Group!

See you there!

### Highlights from WTMS, continued

After a delicious barbeque lunch catered by Dearmore's, we held the annual Plant ID Challenge - students vs. pros. Congratulations to Leon Boroditsky for taking the trophy!



Congratulations Leon Boroditsky for taking the Plant ID trophy!

Returning to the program, Rose Epperson reminded us all that STS continues to be your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council partner. Be sure to take advantage of all that CaUFC has to offer to your urban forestry team.

In the afternoon, Don Hodel, Environmental Horticulturist with the University of California, provided an update on Ficus Branch Dieback (Sooty Canker): A Devastating Disease of Indian Laurel-Leaf Fig Trees. Recent studies performed in Culver City and Lakewood by Don and his colleagues, James Downer (UC Cooperative Ext. - Ventura) and Angela Liu (independent arborist), have revealed that the cause of devastating dieback in mature Indian laurel-fig trees in the Los Angeles basin is not a sooty-mold, as originally theorized, but a combination of several fungi. The fungal "soup" appears to infect mature trees through bark wounds. Smooth, thin bark trees appear to be more susceptible, as do trees that have been stressed (i.e., pruning). Dieback starts at the branch tips and proceeds rapidly down the stems. Their studies found that the fungal spores are everywhere, but no young trees have been infected and no other species have yet to show similar symptoms. On the infected ficus trees, age (35+ years) and stress appear to be key factors. At the onset, patches of upper foliage appears discolored. Foliage browns and is eventually lost as the stems are killed by the fungal attack. However, they found that not all trees die completely. Some will push out epicormic growth at the base of the canopy. With removal of the dead stems, the epicormic growth can allow the tree to function for few more years in the landscape. At this time, there is no definitive treatment. Once the fungi are all positively identified, there may be options to treat with fungicide. For now, the recommendation is to thoroughly disinfect pruning tools between infected and non-infected wood on the same tree and from one tree to the next.



Jerry Turney's group discussed pest and diseases during their walk through the camellia garden.

Our final speaker of the day was Dr. John Kabashima with the Orange and Los Angeles County UC Cooperative Extension, presenting "A Team Approach to Managing Insect Pests



Don Hodel took a group on a great Palm walk through the gardens.

of Trees". Dr. Kabashima discussed integrated pest management of insects in the landscape, including the importance of pest identification, monitoring, prevention techniques, knowledge of injury thresholds, and long-term pest management tactics. Insects are just one of many possible causes of poor plant performance. It is important to look at both biotic and abiotic conditions when assessing plants for injury and treatment. Once you have the big picture, you can decide on a course of action. The course of action will depend on the potential for the pest to cause widespread harm. Some options include; do nothing (low potential), regional containment (high potential), and eradication (high potential). In order to make an educated decision, a pest vulnerability matrix can be used to determine the potential severity of a pest - low, moderate or severe. Pests that fall under the low category tend to cause little damage and only seldom require management action in urban landscapes. A rating of moderate severity is given for pests that cause unsightly or long term problems in the landscape. Severe pest ratings are assigned to those that almost always cause lethal damage to the tree or plant, either directly or indirectly. Examples of pests that have been put to the IPM test are the Red Palm Weevil and the South American Red Palm Weevil. These pests are being controlled with the team approach to pest management, including collaboration between public and regulatory agencies, pest control advisors, arborists, landscape maintenance contractors, and property owners. Dr. Kabashima capped his presentation with contact information for the County Agricultural Commissioner, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the UC Consultants and Pest Control Advisors.

The day wrapped up with a choice of three special garden tours including; a guided tour of The Huntington Gardens with Jim Folsom, a palm tree tour with Don Hodel, or a discussion of diseases and pests of camellias on the camellia garden tour with Jerry Turney. A walk in the gardens was a fitting end to a day of education and team building at another great WTMS. Hope to see you at the next one!

Presentations are available online - visit the STS website.

### STS Scholarship Essay- The Importance of Street Trees- by Miguel Taico

Trees have inspired me to beautify many landscapes; their shapes and different colors give the imagination a picture-like portrait. California is blessed with terrific weather all year round, enormous landscapes to plant trees, urban and rural areas. Pasadena is an example of well planted trees. The May 2002 amendment and tree protection ordinance created protection for three types of trees: private property native, specimen and landmark. Currently there are 13 native trees protected by Pasadena. Here are three trees that I like- Canyon Live Oak, California Black Walnut and White Alder.

California with all its freeways and vehicles on the road today it's good to know that we can depend on the trees to protect our environment from the pollution, and California residents like trees. Well mostly everybody. There is my neighbor who thinks we should cut down the trees. His personal opinion is that they're messy, take up too much room and are a danger if they should fall. Myself being the semi-expert, I mentioned that it's good having well groomed trees that protect your house from the hot summer. In the fall it gives the neighborhood a cozy atmosphere look and in the winter they go bald. With the housing market in ruin, a tree gives value to your home. He still thinks I am crazy. Anyways, so much for that.

In our industry today we have a lack of qualified landscape companies. People do not have a clue of what type of tree needs to go in a landscape. Their inexperienced in selecting the correct tree to benefit the location and the customer who is relying on their expertise. I feel that only qualified arborists

should be making these kinds of choices, or a person with at least 5 years in the arborist field. Selecting the proper street tree gives the area a sense of pride and beauty. The incorrect tree can cause damage to hardscape by the rising of roots under cemented areas. They can grow too tall for their space and hit telephone lines, and they can be susceptible to disease, where they grow abnormally and need to be removed as a safety precaution.

Keep in mind that a street tree is small when planted, but when it's full grown it's a monster. Let's spend some time selecting a proper street tree. We will all benefit from it.



Miguel Taico is one of four local students who were awarded scholarships through STS in 2011.



Regional Arbor Day Celebration
Saturday, March 3, 2012
9:00am - 3:00pm
Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park
120 East Via Verde, San Dimas
Join us in a Celebration of Trees!
Listen to expert guest speakers, learn about different types of trees in your area, tree safety and how to maintain your trees.
Food and Fun for kids of ALL ages, bring the family.
For more information (909) 394-6273 or Bonellipark.org

Regional Arbor Day Sponsored by:
Logos for WCA, Parks Make Life Better!, City of San Dimas, Inland Urban Forest Council, Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture, City of Los Angeles, Forestal Division, and City of Orange.

City of Santa Clarita Earth Arbor Day Festival
Saturday, April 14, 2012
10am to 4pm
Central Park -27150 Bouquet Canyon Rd.
Santa Clarita CA 91350

How are YOU celebrating Arbor Week?
CALIFORNIA ARBOR WEEK
MARCH 7 - 14