



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

MARCH/APRIL 2012

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Highlights from March Meeting - STRATUM Analysis & Shade Tree Canopy By Christy Cuba, Secretary

The March general meeting was hosted by the City of Burbank and Ms. Jan Bartolo, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services-Parks Division, and took place in the city's new Community Services building. Our program for the day was "STRATUM Analysis & Shade Tree Canopy" presented by Ms. Dana Karcher, Programs Manager, of Davey Resource Group.

To start the program, John Conway introduced Jan Bartolo (a past STS Scholarship recipient), who gave a brief presentation about the city and the current urban forestry program.

Burbank began to take shape in 1867, when Dr. David Burbank purchased large portions of two Spanish land grants and combined them into a large sheep ranch. From the turn of the century into the 1920's, he gradually sold off plots of land to the Southern Pacific Railroad, land speculators, Lockheed Aircraft Company, and an early movie company called First National Pictures. Warner Bros. soon bought out First National Pictures and have had studios in Burbank ever since. Now home to three major studios, The Walt Disney Company, Warner Bros., and NBC's West Coast Headquarters, Burbank is known as the "Media Capital of the World." Aviation also continued to thrive, with the growth of Lockheed and the development of the Bob Hope Airport. Today, the City of Burbank has a population of over 100,000 that are served by the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Division.

Burbank maintains a full-service urban forestry operation to care for the city's 33,000 trees and have the distinction of being one of only two cities in California to receive the "Tree City U.S.A." designation for 34 years straight! Ms. Bartolo credits the continued success of their urban forestry program to the incredible team of 18 staff members who care for the city's trees. They perform all of the routine and emergency work needed throughout the city's parks, parkways, and community areas. Outside contractors are rarely used, usually for emergency assistance or special situations only.

With an annual budget of roughly \$2 million, Jan and her staff work on the cutting edge of the arboricultural industry. The city maintains an Urban Forestry Management Plan and a strong public outreach program. Under Jan's guidance, several key programs have been instituted over the years. These include "Community Development Landscape Standards for Construction", which promotes a 40% shade tree standard for canopy cover within 10 years for new development projects and sets stringent requirements for maintenance; school programs for K-3rd grade to promote tree planting and care on the city's annual Arbor Day celebration and throughout the year; a "Made in the Shade" program for private residents to have a staff arborist come out to their house for free and suggest replacement trees near utilities in their yards, and; a "Memorialize Program" where for a nominal fee, residents can hold a gathering at a local park and have a memorial tree planted for their loved one.

Through the Burbank water and power company, the city solicits voluntary donations for tree plantings throughout the city. Donations are gathered and a "Civic Pride" Committee periodically gathers at parks to hold ceremonial tree plantings of the "donated" trees in the presence of the donors. Monies left over are held in a fund for tree replacements throughout the city. In 2008, Jan and her staff teamed up with Dana Karcher and the Davey Resource Group to calculate the Burbank's overall canopy cover and the benefits afforded to the city by such using the "STRATUM" program. They split the city into grids, performed the STRATUM analysis based on past park and street tree inventories and other pertinent data, and ultimately established grades for each grid area. The grades will be analyzed by City Council and used as a base to plan for future tree planting programs.

This lead us into Dana Karcher's presentation about "STRATUM Analysis & Shade Tree Canopy", now called the "i-Tree" program. As with Burbank, municipalities and private entities can use "i-Tree" to calculate and analyze a number of urban forest canopy and species-specific factors and the benefits

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NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, May 17th
Elysian Park - Los Angeles

2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

May 17	Significant Trees of Los Angeles Recreation & Parks Speakers: Jorge Ochoa & Laura Bauernfiend	Grace E. Simons Lodge 1025 Elysian Park Drive, Los Angeles
June 21	Golf Tournament	Robinson Ranch - Santa Clarita
July 19	WTMS Summer Program	Phoenix Club 1340 S. Sanderson Ave., Anaheim
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."

NEXT MEETING!

Join us for our next meeting May 17, 2012

**Significant Trees of Los Angeles Recreation & Parks
Speakers: Jorge Ochoa & Laura Bauernfiend**

LOCATION:

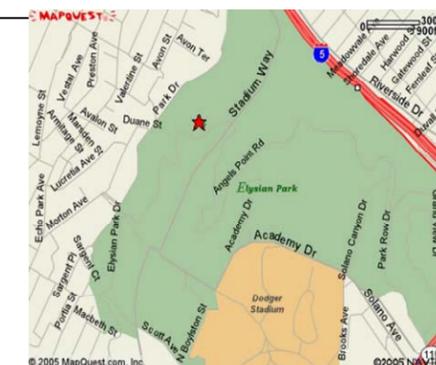
Grace E. Simons Lodge
1025 Elysian Park Drive, Los Angeles

TIME:

10: 30 AM

COST:

\$15/RESERVED - \$20/AT DOOR



Remember to email Christy Cuba @ christy@cycarlberg.com with your reservation

Business Meeting - March, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President John Conway.

Past Presidents in Attendance: Wayne Smith, Kevin Holman, Rose Epperson, Al Remy, Dave Thompson

Raffle Prizes Donated By: John Conway, Rose Epperson, RPW, Emina Darakjy, Robert Sartain and STS.

Raffle Winners Glen Williams, Noe Cardenas, Melissa from Burbank, Heather Crippen and Dana Karcher

The General meeting ended with announcements for upcoming meetings in May (Chavez Ravine Arboretum.) and June (the Golf Tournament), the raffle, and a delicious lunch hosted by Davey Resource Group!

Next Meeting Please join us on May 17th for our next meeting. Our program is set for Significant Trees of Los Angeles Recreation & Parks. Our speakers will be Jorge Ochoa & Laura Bauernfiend—The meeting will include a walking tour of the significant trees at Chavez Ravine Arboretum. led by Jorge.

See you there!

Highlights from March, continued

related to those factors. In general, the "i-Tree" analysis reveals the following: 1) Tree population composition; 2) Species richness (how many of each?); 3) Importance values; 4) Stocking level; 5) Relative age distributions (can show by species); 6) Tree conditions ratings; 7) Relative performance index; 8) Public tree benefits (based on energy saving of shade); 9) Air quality benefits by species; 10) Storm water runoff benefits, and; 11) Aesthetics benefits analysis. Two important figures are generated by the overall analysis - 1) the annual benefits of public trees in total \$\$ per capita, and 2) the annual cost of public trees in total \$\$ per capita.

For the City of Burbank "i-Tree" analysis, Dana and Jan used 1999 street tree inventory data and 2007 parks' trees inventory data, plus tree population data from 2008 that included 32,077 trees and 180 distinct species. A GIS-based map was prepared by Davey and Burbank staff to illustrate the canopy area included in the "i-Tree" analysis. Layers were built into the map for each grid area with quality control for shadows, etc. Burbank's urban forest canopy cover was found to be 2,578 acres - including 2,096 acres of right-of-way (streets, etc.) tree canopy and 482 acres of park and other community parcel trees. After all the calculations were complete, Burbank's urban forest was valued at \$162 million! For every \$1 that the city spends

on the community forest, they receive \$2.33 in benefits per tree.

Output data for each grid area was illustrated on a map and each grid area was assigned a grade of A - F. Using the formula in the Urban Tree Canopy Report Card and a city-designated goal of 25% average tree canopy cover, the city received an overall grade of "B". Based on the information output from the "i-Tree" analysis and mapped grid areas, the City Council and Jan Bartolo's department will move to establish new canopy cover goals throughout the city's suburban, urban, and central business districts.

Overall, Ms. Karcher and Ms. Bartolo's presentations illustrated how the "i-Tree" (a.k.a.STRATUM Analysis and Shade Tree Canopy") program can be used as a powerful urban forestry advocacy tool. By creating a base line analysis for each community urban forest and identifying areas for improvement, coupled with the dollars and cents cost/benefit analysis, urban foresters, city governments, and private citizens can work together to improve their community's tree canopy cover and long term benefit stream. Healthy urban forests equal healthy cities!

Hearty thanks to Jan Bartolo, Dana Karcher, and the City of Burbank for putting on a great event!



"i-Tree", "i-Canopy" and "i-Eco" programs are available on-line at - www.itreetools.org

April is a busy month for urban forestry.

Earth Day (April 22) and National Arbor Day (April 27) provide not one but two chances to care and advocate for the trees. Will you be tabling at a local event?

Tri-fold tabletop displays are available for you through the Britton Fund. These displays are portable, easy to set up, and free to reserve for your urban forestry advocacy needs.

Contact Mary@wcisa.net to check one out today!



STS Scholarship Essay- The Importance of Street Trees- by Sonia Rios

Throughout history people have tried to improve their environment by planting trees, especially as population densities and urban development increase. Street trees ensure that a green infrastructure provides the needed benefits and values through energy conservation, climatic effects, and economic sustainability.

Street trees play an important role in conserving energy. Whether the goal is to reduce the amount of money spent on utility bills or use energy more efficiently, trees provide part of the solution. Trees save energy by providing shade, therefore reducing the need for air-conditioning. During the winter, trees break the force of winds and consequently lower heating costs. This in turn equates to lower energy use and decreased utility costs. Trees are also a renewable source of fuel that burns with less air pollution than many other fuels when the right equipment is used. Through trees' energy conservation effects, they reduce the use of fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide.

Atmospheric carbon dioxide, the major greenhouse gas and key contributor to the associated threat of global warming, is reduced by street trees through carbon dioxide absorption



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

that takes place during the photosynthesis process. Tree planting, care, and maintenance are inexpensive ways to slow the build-up of carbon dioxide and decrease its negative effects on climate change.

Economic sustainability is also achieved through street trees. The urban forest is usually the first impression a community projects to its visitors. Trees enhance community economic stability by attracting businesses and tourists. Customers usually shop longer along tree-lined streets. Houses and offices surrounded by trees have higher occupancy rates. Work environments in developments with trees find their workers are more productive. Property values also increase 5-15% when compared to properties without trees. This in turn increases real estate values.

Street trees are major capital assets in urban settings. They form part of a community's infrastructure and provide and enhances living environment sought by people. Energy conservation, climatic effects, and economic sustainability are just a few of the categories positively affected by trees. The importance of street trees will become increasingly crucial as the human population increases and cities continue to grow.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES ARBOR DAY & EARTH MONTH COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

WHO: Join your neighbors, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Councilman Ed Reyes, United Voices for Healthier Communities and Million Trees LA in celebrating our urban forest. Be part of greening our city and supporting our planet.

WHEN: 8:30 AM on Saturday, April 28, 2012

WHERE: Home Depot located at 2055 N. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90065

Items to bring: Gardening gloves, sun block, hat and please no open toe shoes.

To volunteer and be a part of the "GREEN TREE TEAM" please contact MTLA at (213) 473-9950 or email Lisa.Sarno@lacity.org

Free Fruit Trees will also be available for private home adoption. Participants adopting trees will be able to take home and plant on private property. To be eligible, you must live or own property within in the City of LA. Verification will be required (ID/Driver's License or copy of DWP utility bill). Supplies are limited and on a first come, first served basis. Limit one adopted tree per property address. Tree adoption will take place after tree planting.



MILLION TREES LA PARTICIPATING CORPORATE AND PLANTING PARTNERS: Chinatown Business Improvement District, Home Depot, JMB Realty Corporation, Ralphs, Scotts Miracle Grow, City of LA Urban Forestry Division & Recreation & Parks, Fuego Tech Fire Rangers, Hollywood Beautification Team, Koreatown Youth & Community Center, LA Conservation Corps, North East Trees