



# STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

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



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Thursday, May 23, 2013**  
**La Casita del Arroyo**  
**Pasadena, CA**

## 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

May 23	Wildlife Awareness Susan Sims– Speaker <i>Trees and Wildlife – the relationship between trees and wildlife. How and why trees are important to wildlife? Wildlife and Tree People - why wildlife regulations are important to know. How ANSI standards are important to wildlife. How can you be Wildlife Aware? Join us next month to see how easy it can be.</i>	La Casita del Arroyo Pasadena, CA
June 19th	WTMS Summer Program	CalTECH University Pasadena, CA
July 19th	Annual Golf Outing	Robinson Ranch Santa Clarita, 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.”*



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

# STS Newsletter

MARCH/APRIL 2013

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## Highlights from the March Meeting - Logs to Lumber

By Christy Cuba, Secretary

**T**he March general meeting was held at the lovely Descanso Gardens in La Canada. STS President Robert Sartain and STS Vice President Fred Roth started the meeting with a flag salute and several housekeeping announcements, including the fact that Descanso Gardens donated the meeting room and was offering all STS guests free admission to the grounds for the day. With spring in full bloom, that was a real treat! Thank you, Descanso Gardens staff.



in great ray-cell character and expensive boards. Rift cuts are radial cuts, which are best for showcasing fancy grain character.

The two main mill types include the band mill (i.e., “Wood Miser”) and the slab mill (i.e., “Lucas mill”).

The mill you chose will dictate the width of logs you can mill and how

many board feet of lumber you can mill in a day. Once the wood is milled, it should be bathed in a mixture of Borax and salt to kill bugs. Then, the wood can be air dried or kiln dried. Air drying requires the use of weights and spacers between the boards. Whichever you chose, the boards can’t be left uncovered for even a few hours or they will start to dry out too quickly, which will result in cracks at the end of the process. It



takes about one year to air dry one inch of board thickness. Kiln drying uses a heat plus dehumidifying process to reduce that time to about 30 days.

Guest speaker Andy Trotter, STS past president and VP of Operations at West Coast Arborists, presented “Logs to Lumber”, a discussion of the process and products that give second life to ‘retired’ urban forest trees. Some years back, Andy and his team began questioning the term ‘green waste’ as it pertains to urban trees that require removal from the landscape. With literally tons of material at their fingertips, they asked, “Are these trees really waste?” They decided to change that idea within their company and began to explore options for reuse of all that urban wood. Besides being environmentally responsible, it made economic sense when they found their costs for ‘green waste’ disposal at the local landfill cut in half! A more subtle benefit of the reuse campaign has been the emotional reaction of the public when faced with the loss of a favorite or historic tree. The wood can be turned into tangible products, such as a bench, that memorialize the special tree.

Additional benefits of milling urban trees includes the production of biomass products such as mulch and soil products. Heavy mulching has been shown to support fire safe landscapes, reduce weeds and eliminate the need for supplemental irrigation in some instances. Cities and private property clients benefit from those products immediately, reduce products in the waste-stream, and demonstrate responsible environmental practices. Reuse of urban trees reduces reliance on natural forest product use. Cities can use logs-to-lumber programs to educate their communities during times of urban forest transitions. Urban forest species’ lists can be developed with end products in mind so communities reap the benefit of their urban trees now and later.

To start, WCA solicited and received a grant from the California Department of Forestry and then borrowed a saw mill from CALFIRE. Andy went on to explain the milling process, log handling, the response of different tree species to milling, and the process of sorting and storing the lumber. There is a huge variety of trees in Southern California and milling teaches you a lot about each species. You have to understand the different characteristics of wood by species in order to match the wood with the product. Hardwoods are good for furniture, but not lumber. Some items that have been made from urban lumber include picnic tables, playhouses, benches, small sheds, and slab tables. Milling challenges include old, decaying logs, large knots, and metal. Wood can be milled for grade, including “plain”, quarter-sawn”, or “rift”. Plain is a straight slab cut. The quarter-sawn technique results

Andy wrapped-up his talk with a question and answer session. During lunch, we all had a chance to check out the wood samples he brought from 36 common urban trees and check out a beautiful hardwood box that he donated to the raffle. After the raffle and some great networking time, many attendees took advantage of the lovely weather for a stroll around the Descanso Gardens grounds. An extra thank you to Andy and the Descanso Gardens staff for a wonderful day!

Cool wood products



Remember to email Christy Cuba at [christy@cycarlberg.com](mailto:christy@cycarlberg.com) with your reservation

Minutes from our March 2013 Business Meeting

Our March 2013 meeting was held at the beautiful Descanso Gardens in La Canada/Flintridge.

Past Presidents in attendance were: Wayne Smith, Andy Trotter, Rose Epperson, Kevin Holman, Alan Hudak, Al Remyn and John Conway.

Drawing prizes were donated by: Mauget, John Conway, Emina Darakjy, Wayne Smith, John Baker, Christy Cuba, Leon Boroditsky, Rose Epperson, Alan Hudak, Robert Sartain, Ken Pfalzgraf, Century Products, and WCA

Winning tickets belonged to: Andy Trotter, Clare Nelson, Leon Boroditsky, Corey Ray, Mike Gallagher, Theresa Prosciewicz, Fred Roth, Janell Mithani, Emina Darakjy, John Dominguez, Annie Sheets, Ann Hope, Al Remyn, Christy Cuba, Wayne Smith, Al Remyn, and Tony Dodson

Next Meeting: Please join us on May 23rd at La Casita del Arroyo in Pasadena for guest speaker Susan Sims speaking on Wildlife Awareness for Arborists - . Don't forget to RSVP!

Invest from the Ground Up – Help share the value of trees

Mary Pendleton, Western Chapter ISA

The California Urban Forests Council has recently collaborated with Western Chapter ISA on a new public tree education campaign called "Invest from the Ground Up." The goal of the campaign is to help Californians see the true value of one of the most basic and cost-efficient investments they can make in their home, their local businesses and in their community: Caring for our trees, parks and green spaces. When we invest from the ground up we not only help create and nurture great neighborhoods, we get back much more than we put in.



they find most useful. For example, in East Hollywood, we're focusing on trees positive influence on businesses and shopping corridors. In Santee we're focusing on trees and water issues.

Of the many assets this campaign offers, there are three that truly set it apart. First, it focuses on homeowners and business owners, two groups of very engaged Californians who have significant say in how their trees are cared for and who have the ears of important decision makers. Second, it brings together three partners who each bring something unique to the table: CaUFC with community organizing knowledge, WCISA with an industry network and professional knowledge, and Fenton with social marketing expertise. Finally, perhaps this campaign's strongest point is that it is statewide and well-funded by CalFire and the US Forest Service. It has the power to cast a wide net and get our message out to new audiences and in a whole new way.

We plan to pilot the campaign in five communities across California. In each community, we will talk with local community groups and agencies to assess opportunities and needs and then work with partners to provide support in five different areas: online, coalition building, in-person, advertising and media relations.

We are piloting the campaign in five communities across California, beginning in East Hollywood and Santee. In each community, we'll talk with local community groups and agencies to assess opportunities and needs. We're working with partners to provide value-added support in five areas: online, coalition building, in-person, advertising and media relations. Our work in each community looks different and depends upon how engaged local partners would like us to be and what kinds of support

Visit us online at www.investfromthegroundup.org for campaign updates, our weekly blog, and a mind-blowing resource center full of information about the benefits of trees. Most important of all, please help us share this important message on Facebook, Twitter, and out in the world!



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STS Scholarship Essay– The Importance of Street Trees by Fleur Nooyen

I love to stand here and watch the world go by. You might think I get bored easily, because I never get to leave this place. True, when I was younger, I would get antsy. I couldn't stop wondering what was happening down the street. I was a lot smaller then. I was skinny and lean. I wasn't like those giants a bit further down the block, throwing their looming shadows over the street. Now they were impressive and grand. I was not. No one ever seemed to notice me.

So I dreamed. I dreamed that one day, I could be like them.

Even from where I stood, I could sense their impact. In the summer months, when a sudden breeze would blow up from their direction, for a short moment I would be enveloped in cool air. I loved that feeling. Perhaps because I was tiny and insignificant, it made me feel part of something greater.

I could see how people liked the giants, too, as they pulled out their folding chairs and sat underneath them for hours during summer days. I could hear the happy laughter of children as they used the enormous trunks to play hide and seek.

Even though I was young and new to this world, I quickly learned that the giants were different from me, because when the weather turned colder, the giants would change into an array of oranges, yellows and reds, while I remained green. Yes, it stung a bit as I heard people go "oou and ah" and "look how pretty they are!" I won-

dered why I couldn't set the sky ablaze like that. But, in their grace, when the giants finally dropped their leaves, the wind would carry some to my base, creating a nice warm blanket. It was comforting and I fantasized that perhaps they were sharing something with me. And so I dreamed on.

Slowly I began to fill out in breadth and length. Birds started to notice me as they landed on my branches to rest, before taking off in the direction of the giants, where there always seemed a cacophony of birdsong going on. Squirrels raced up, but took off disappointed as they realized I wasn't producing anything for them to eat yet. They too, left for the giants down the street.

So perhaps you can imagine the thrill, the immense thrill I felt the day a hummingbird decided one of my branches was finally big enough to build itself a nest. No matter how many years ago, I remember it like yesterday as this small event changed my life forever. Instead of wondering what was occurring down the street, I turned my gaze inward. It was so amazing to see this tiny little creature fly back and forth to construct a home of spider

silk, leaf fragments, moss and feathers. When she laid her two eggs, I learned to sway and dance with the wind. My mind was focused on anything I could do to help protect her eggs from falling out. When the fledglings emerged I shivered with excitement. The peeping sounds they made resonated deep in my inner core. And suddenly... I realized, what I had dreamed about all along– I, as much as the giants, I belonged.



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Join us for our next meeting May 23, 2013. WILDLIFE AWARENESS FOR ARBORISTS- SUSAN SIMS. LOCATION: LA CASITA DEL ARROYO 177 S. ARROYO BLVD- PASADENA. TIME: 10:30 PROGRAM. COST: \$15.00/RESERVED \$20.00/ONSITE.

NEXT MEETING!

SAVE THE DATE. WESTERN TREE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM STS FULL DAY SUMMER PROGRAM. June 19, 2013. CAL TECH UNIVERSITY Pasadena - California. Includes logo for California Institute of Technology.