



# STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

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



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**December 12, 2013**  
**Annual Scholarship Awards**  
**And Officer Installation**  
**Kellogg West- Pomona, CA**

## 2013/14 MEETING SCHEDULE

December 12	Annual Scholarship Awards and Officer Induction	Kellogg West Pomona, CA
January 23	2014 Winter WTMS all day program Making Cities Safe for Trees	Pomona Fairplex Pomona, CA
March 20	TBD	TBD
May 15	TBD	TBD

### 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

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## A Conversation about Trees with Matt Ritter

By Christy Cuba, Secretary

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, attendees of the STS meeting at The Huntington Library and Gardens were treated to a morning of witty conversation with one of our favorite professors, Dr. Matt Ritter of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The tree topics were varied, and lively conversation occurred throughout the morning between Professor and 'STStudents'.



STS Vice President Dr. Fred Roth welcomes Dr. Matt Ritter to our area

Conversation began with a discussion of the big picture; climate change, accelerated extinctions, and human populations that are growing and changing. As of 2008, aerial imaging illustrates a more urban landscape across the nation.

Trees are desperately needed as part of the urban landscape. We need to reconnect with the natural world around us and trees provide that link. A sad testament to today's high-speed, technological world is the fact that many people are oblivious to the natural world around them. "The average person recognizes more than 1,000 corporate logos, but can identify fewer than 10 plants and animals native to his or her locality." - David Orr. While human recognition is amazing...humans can recognize things *instantly*, tree and plant identification can be daunting. Why is tree identification and knowledge important? Because trees tell a story; they can be thought of as natural history of an area. While Urban Foresters are often over-looked and not very public, they should be sought-after and supported as the keepers and protectors of their city's heritage.

Some local areas have amazing diversity in their tree populations. For example, Santa Barbara is the most diverse urban forest in the world with 480 different species within the city limits! Other local cities with high diversity in their urban forests include Claremont and South Pasadena. Urban foresters, community activists, and anyone interested in the perpetuation of healthy, sustainable community forests, need to advocate for diversity in urban areas. Think of how trees enrich our lives. Then, realize that we are losing diversity and large trees in our urban forests at an alarming rate. Cities are only using about 40% of the available diversity out there. Nursery stock can be limited, and landscape folks can get stuck on their favorite 5-10 species. These constraints tend to define the tree palette in many cities. Think outside of the box; pester your local nurserymen to bring in more

diversity; go back to your city and add just 10-20% new species to your city tree lists. Be proactive; email Matt for a list of 20 undeservedly rare trees for landscape planting and introduce them to your town council. We must be visionaries for canopies, not individual trees, or our cities will be transformed from shady, lush-canopied communities to stark monocultures of small-statured trees.

Plant identification is also important because trees react differently in urban environments than the wild. For example, Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most planted tree in the world, but is also flammable, prone to wind failure, summer branch drop, and is invasive in some settings. In 1856, it started to show up in nursery catalogs and they were touted as the cure for the timber famine that was forecast. Huge populations

were planted as crops. Blue gums are fast growing and folks at the time thought that Eucalypts were going to be the miracle tree. Plantations were planted in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Hearst even planted a plantation just south of San Simeon in 1910. That grove remains today. However, like the California redwood, it turned out that the young eucalyptus trees did not produce good timber. Unfortunately, it took 20-30 years to find this out and the trees naturalized like mad. Though not good for timber production, Eucalypts are used for paper pulp.

So, how do we deal with the historic or heritage nature of some of these eucalypts in contrast to their weedy, invasive, fire prone nature? Also, they do provide habitat of some value. A famous example is the monarch butterfly migration that occurs on the eucalyptus groves in Monterey, CA every year. We don't know what the

monarchs did before the eucalypts were introduced, there is no historical record, but we can't remove them now without impacting the butterflies. Another example of historically significant Eucalyptus trees is embodied at the Presidio at San Francisco. Historic preservation dictates that, as the eucalyptus trees age and fail in the landscape, new eucalypts must be planted in their place. In an effort to remain historically accurate, but sensitive to the challenges of using eucalyptus trees in the landscape, the Presidio Trust explored the options and found that the Karri tree (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) is very similar in stature and form to the previously planted Tasmanian Blue gum (*E. globulus*), without the invasive nature. In fact, *E.*



Enjoying a walk around the garden with Dr. Ritter and Kathy Musial from the Huntington. What a treat!

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

**A Discussion about Trees... continued**

*diversicolor* does not seem to reproduce in California! This may be an excellent replacement species for those areas with heritage eucalyptus trees or habitat concerns.



**Karri tree (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*)**

U.S., but most California and western U.S. trees are not yet in the database. This leads to lots of misidentification by folks that rely on the app alone. The best way to ID a tree is to LOOK! Walk around the entire tree. Look at the root buttress, the trunk, the branching architecture, the twigs, the leaf arrangement, the leaves (top and bottom), flowers, and fruit. Matt's team is developing a different app called "City Tree App". It will be an electronic key for finding the ID of common city trees.

After a delicious catered lunch and homemade desserts, Dr. Ritter and Kathy Musial, Curator, Living Collections and Collections Manager at The Huntington, lead a garden tour of

some unusual and specimen trees to consider for greater use in the landscapes and streetscapes of Southern California.

Our conversation continued with a shift to tree identification and the importance of getting it right (at least for us tree-people!). Examples of misidentification wreaking havoc include:

When one species is protected in a jurisdiction and another similar species is not, confusing the identification can be costly and embarrassing. In one California city, the protected Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) was confused with the non-protected Cook pine (*A. columnaris*) and it led to the waste of thousands of dollars

in reporting and permitting expenses, City council meetings, appeals, and fees all for a tree that was not even actually protected in that jurisdiction.

Misidentification of nursery stock is also a problem. In Santa Monica, early plantings of what they thought were southern magnolia (*M. grandiflora*) turned out to be Moreton bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)! Talk about root vs. hardscape issues! What do cities do when the trees mature and the community loves them? It all could have been avoided with the correct identification.

We saw several interesting trees that are good candidates for use in our local urban forests: the Karri tree (*E. diversicolor*), a rose apple gum (*Angophora costata*), the lilly pilly (*Acmena smithii*), and forest elder (*Nuxia floribunda*). Try some in your streetscape and remember: *Without trees, a city is just a scab on the earth.* – Chuck Gilstrap.



Our "tour guides" - Dr. Ritter and Kathy Musial, Curator, Living Collections and Collections Manager at The Huntington.

Thank you again to Matt Ritter and Kathy Musial for an entertaining, thought-provoking day at the beautiful Huntington Gardens! Special, additional thanks to all the Huntington staff members that provided us with hot coffee and directions through all the construction. We will be back!

To help the layman and arborist alike, the Leafsnap application is an electronic field guide being developed by researchers from Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution. This mobile app uses visual recognition software to help identify tree species from photographs of their leaves. However, at this point, it includes many trees of the northeastern

**CityTree App by Matt Ritter**

From leading botanist, Dr. Matt Ritter, this easy-to-use app helps to quickly identify any city tree. Learn over 300 of the world's most common urban trees. Browse, identify, explore, share. This app is made and reviewed by university professors and tree experts and has over 600 high quality images and drawings.

**NOW AVAILBLE FOR DOWNLOAD ON ITUNES AND GOOGLE PLAY - \$3.99**



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**"Investing From the Ground Up: Community Tree Success" video sprouts!**

If a picture is worth a thousand words, well a video is worth a million words! Over the last year, we've been sharing with you the many benefits of trees and why we, as Californians, need to provide our trees with the care they need to survive and thrive. Now, through our new video: *Invest From the Ground Up: Community Tree Success* we're showing the impact trees makes on our lives through three success stories.

This video travels the state and showcases the stories of everyday people who share in their own words how trees truly improve their lives. We feature:



**Jay Jimenez, a small business owner in Bishop, California** who's the owner of an amazing 120 year old sycamore tree that provides shade and protection for his customers. In Jay's own words is "[the tree] is the head of the business and the reason I am in business."



Carol Bills, a resident of Huntington Beach, California, who shares how the newly renovated Butterfly Park has been hugely positive in her life and health. Carol says, "I can't imagine living without trees, it would be a cold, hard landscape."

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Jennifer Madden and Jeff Reed, who are homeowners in Albany, California. Trees completely transformed their neighborhood to one of the most beautiful blocks in the city. Jeff says, "[Planting trees] felt like the beginning of the neighborhood we have now."

**Jennifer Madden and Jeff Reed, who are homeowners in Albany, California.** Trees completely transformed their neighborhood to one of the most beautiful blocks in the city. Jeff says, "[Planting trees] felt like the beginning of the neighborhood we have now."

View the video today at [www.investfromthegroundup.org](http://www.investfromthegroundup.org)

**STS October 2013 General Meeting**

Our October 2013 meeting was held in the beautiful Huntington Library & Gardens.

**Past Presidents in attendance were:** Al Remyn, Alan Hudak, Cy Carlberg, Dan Jensen, John Conway, Kevin Holman and Rose Epperson

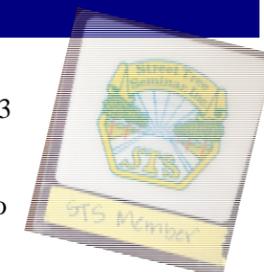
**Prizes were donated by:** John Conway, Emina Darakjy, Robert Sartain, Leon Boroditsky, Christy Cuba, Kevin Holman, and Mauget

**Raffle Winners:** Kevin Holman, Ann Hope, John Conway, Janell Mithani, Ted Lubeshkoff, Robert Sartain, and Greg MacDonald.

**Next Meeting:** Please join us on December 12, 2013 as we award our 2013 scholarship recipients and welcome in our 2014 Board of Directors. Please remember to RSVP to Christy Cuba so we can prepare.



Have you renewed for 2014? Look for your renewal in the mail. If you are a current member and do not have your plastic name badge, please contact the office at 714.639.6516 to get one. **We have a new policy going into effect in 2014.** Non-members (and members who forget their name badges) will be charged an additional fee for meetings.



**Upcoming Meeting Announcements**

**Annual Scholarship Awards and Officer Installation Luncheon**

**Date:** December 12, 2013  
**Time:** 10:30 am  
**Location:**

Kellogg West Conference Center  
3801 W. Temple Ave., Pomona

**Cost:** \$5.00 donation - lunch is hosted by STS  
**RSVP to** [Christy@cycarlberg.com](mailto:Christy@cycarlberg.com)



**2014 Western Tree Management Symposium Winter Program**

**Making Cities Safe for Trees**  
**January 23, 2014**

**Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center**  
601 W. McKinley Ave ~ Pomona, CA 91768  
Look for details soon!