



STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

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



SAVE THE DATE:
October 24, 2013
A Discussion on Trees With
Dr. Matt Ritter
Huntington Gardens

2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

- October 24 A Discussion on Trees with Dr. Matt Ritter
- December 12 Annual Scholarship Awards and Officer Induction
- January 23 2014 Winter WTMS all day program

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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Preparing for the Holocaust - Incoming Pest Threats & How to Deal with Them

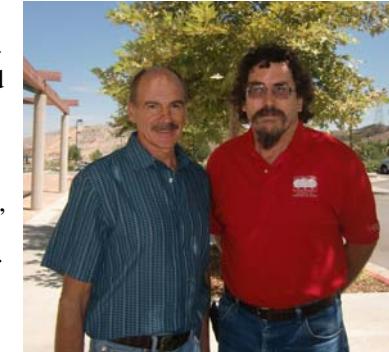
By Christy Cuba, Secretary

The August meeting was hosted by the City of Santa Clarita at their Sports Activity Center. STS Vice President, Fred Roth, began the meeting with a sobering thought - introduced pests are going to change our lives and the landscape around us. As arborists, horticulturists, landscape professionals, and urban foresters, many STS members are at least aware of the coming threats and are eager to learn how to handle the coming onslaught. However, there is great concern with the general lack of awareness in city governments and in other stakeholder groups that are responsible for urban forests. With this in mind, the message of the meeting was two-fold: Dr. Jim Downer spoke about the current and foreseeable pest threats, and Dave Roger gave us some ideas for management practices and dealing with the aftermath.

Dr. Downer, Ventura County UC Cooperative Extension Acting County Director and Farm and Environmental Horticulture Advisor, acknowledged that new pests and diseases are being discovered all the time. In addition, some pests that have been around for a long time are mobilizing and causing more damage than ever before. Jim posed the question, "Why has there been such an increase in California now?" There are several theories, including the ease and increase in global travel, global commerce, and multiple major points of entry. California supports numerous forms of comfortable bug transportation; trains, automobiles, ships, and planes. Our mild weather, especially in the coastal zones, contributes to the success of many introduced insects due to year-round growth potential. That, coupled with the 200+ varieties of agricultural products in the state, creates a perfect environment for new pests to take hold. Dr. Downer indicated that an average of 7-8 alien invertebrates enter our environment every year. With a \$32 billion agricultural industry, California averages \$3 billion in annual impact due to pests and disease. Though we know new pests are emerging, we don't know how severe the damages and impacts will be.

How can we prepare? Jim advises all of us to understand what is coming. Keep up on pest alerts and attend workshops and seminars to stay informed. Keep your eyes open for the unusual in your day-to-day work. Become a pest detective. When you see symptoms, look closer! Many times, non-biological issues will present as pests, so be sure to rule out the abiotic issues before raising a pest flag. You are the front line – if you see something that is new or unusual to your area, contact your local UC Cooperative Extension Advisor or the County Agricultural Commissioner.

Some new pests to be aware of include the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB), 'Red Bug' (*Scantius aegyptius*), melaleuca psyllid, spotted gum eucalyptus gall wasp, and blue gum eucalyptus gall wasp (*Selitrichodes globulus*). These and other insects play a role as vectors of fungal pathogens, as gardeners of those fungi, and in predisposing, inciting, and contributing to tree decline. Some 'old' pathogens, such as scorch disease and



emerald ash borer are gaining ground and killing plants over wide areas. The sticky question is, why do some pests kill everything (Dutch elm disease) and others start out with a vengeance then fade out? While this question is being researched, we should encourage a diverse tree population in our urban settings to dilute the impact of any one particular pest or pathogen.

Diversification was one of the main themes that Dave Roger, a past Urban Forester of three communities and now a UF consultant, promoted during the second part of our meeting. Dave encouraged all of us to be aware and bring awareness to the public. Talk to people in your communities; get on the speaker's circuit at your local civic organizations, take the City Manager to lunch, and get in front of the department heads and risk manager in your town. Make them aware of the current and impending pest situations so they can budget for the likely impacts of disease and decline in their urban forests. Encourage your local governments to think ahead for the potential wood products that can be gleaned from trees that must be removed. Help them to envision a higher and better use for the resource at hand.

Dave also advises us to create a dialogue with the public and local governments through the development of management plans. Management plans are the tool that we can use to deal with the pests and diseases that are coming. When a plan is in place, the public, stakeholders, and local governments will be on the same page in dealing with changes to the urban forests. Species selection, service life, hardscape issues, reforestation strategy, and susceptibility to pests and disease should all be part of the discussion and, ultimately, the plan for the community. It is important to get the public to think of something different, not just the same species and age profile for all the trees in the UF.

Management plans focus on: what do you have, what do you want, and management needs. Goals, objectives and implementation plans are also part of the scheme. With a plan in place, an entity can identify their goals, proactively address problems, create a system for reforestation, and monitor the progress of their goals and objectives. City departments can quantify their UF costs, project for future funding needs, and keep their City Councils informed of budget changing circumstances.

Both Jim and Dave encouraged us all to be proactive, stay informed, know which pests and diseases are potentially devastating and which are not, get to know our local UC Cooperative extension advisor and County Ag Commissioner, and have a loud voice in our communities. Now is not the time to be silent. Speak for the trees!

Our afternoon was topped-off with lively networking, our raffle, and an excellent catered lunch. A huge thank you to our venerable speakers and to our lunch and refreshment sponsors – StayGreen and Four Seasons Landscapes.



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

PRESIDENT
Robert Sartain
City of Santa Clarita
23920 Valencia Blvd.
Suite 255
Santa Clarita CA 91355.
661/286-4078

PAST PRESIDENT
John Conway
City of Newport Beach
3300 Newport Blvd.
Newport Beach, CA 92659
949/644-3083

VICE PRESIDENT
Dr. Fred Roth
Cal Poly University, Pomona
3801 W. Temple Avenue
Pomona, CA 91768
909/987-7165

SECRETARY
Christy Cuba
Carlberg & Associates
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl., #241
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626/248-8977

TREASURER
Dan Jensen
R. Dan Jensen & Associates
18011 Clearwater
Huntington Bch, CA 92648
714/841-2905

DIRECTORS
Emina Darakjy
1044 Prospect Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91103
626/792-0586

Jon Baker
County of LA Fire Dept
1910 N Sycamore Cyn Rd
San Dimas, CA 91773
909/599-4615

Leon Boroditsky
City of Los Angeles, Rec
and Parks - Forestry Div
3900 W. Chevy Chase Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 900939
310/779-0111

MEMBERSHIP
Kevin Holman
714/412-5348

SCHOLARSHIP
Al Remyn
714/538-3821

MAILING ADDRESS
Street Tree Seminar, Inc.
P.O. Box 6415
Anaheim, CA 92816-6415
www.streetreeseminar.com
714/639-6516

Creating a Nature-Rich Urban Future– by Richard Louv

Houston is well situated to become a leading city— perhaps the leading city—to envision its future through the prism of the natural world. Given the city's reputation (no zoning, all business), that may sound counterintuitive. And as one Houstonian said to me recently, "If you were to say that around here, people would say you're not from around here." So why do I single out Houston? Before speaking there a few months ago, I had learned that Houston's leaders were considering rebranding the city. Usually a city rebranding will focus on economic competition. But what if Houston (or insert your city's name here) were to reimagine its future by looking through the prism of nature?

What would its health care and education systems, shopping areas and residential developments be like? What about its economic health, its ability to market itself to the most creative people and businesses around the world? What would the future look like? Here are 5 ways Houston – or your city— could create a nature rich urban future.

1. Incubate future entrepreneurs through the nurture of nature. Houston is known as a city of business, of independent thinkers. New research suggests that more time spent in natural environments can reduce the symptoms of attention-deficit disorder, encourage creativity, improve learning and nurture executive function. Executive function is the ability developed in early childhood—and primarily through imaginative independent play—to be your own boss. Yet many U.S. school districts have cut recess and discouraged independent play. What if Houston bucked those trends and added more natural areas and independent play to children's learning time, thereby enhancing its reputation as an incubator of entrepreneurs?

2. Lead a campaign to reverse the pandemic of inactivity. Houston boasts some of the most sophisticated medical facilities in the world but also has a high rate of childhood obesity. Harold W. Kohl, a researcher at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, is one of the leading U.S. voices suggesting that obesity is partly the result of a pandemic of inactivity. A top correlate to children's physical activity "is how much time they spend outdoors", Kohl has said. Time spent in natural areas can also reduce stress and emotional disorders, as evidenced by the hospitals, mental health centers and nursing homes around the country that are creating healing gardens. Some pediatricians now even prescribe "green exercise" outdoors. What if Houston were to do all this— bigger and better?

3. Become the first city to declare itself an engine of biodiversity. Many people in and around Houston do not know of the region's incredible ecological diversity. As Houston Wilderness—a broad alliance of business, environmental and government interests—has pointed out, "This ecological diversity has been known for decades to experienced bird-watchers and natural scientists, but it has gone largely unrecognized by the general public and our economic leaders. What if Houston more aggressively marketed its distinctive bioregion? Researchers tell us the parks with the highest biodiversity are the ones with the most positive effect on human psychological well-being. Maybe in the future, our sense of personal and regional identity will depend as much on our bioregion's natural history as on its human history.

4. Be the leading pioneer city of nature-smart development and the agrarianism. In the 21st century, conservation is no longer enough. We need to "create" nature where we live and work. Decades ago, Houston helped set a standard for planned communities incorporating natural features. Could the Houston urban region become a seedbed for nature-smart builders, those who specialize in window-appeal (the view of nature from the inside) - not just curb appeal? Those nature-smart developers could:

- Use local materials to reflect the region's history
- Incorporate new designs for natural air conditioning
- Install super-insulated green roofs that can last 80 years (compared to the usual 20)
- Weave nature into homes and offices in even the most crowded neighborhoods

Houston and its bioregion could be a leader of the new agrarianism: vertical farms in high-rise buildings, community gardens, expanded farmers markets, and immigrant agriculture in city neighborhoods. On the outskirts would be innovative ranches and farms focusing on local sustainable food, fiber and fuel production.

5. Create nongovernmental ways to connect people with nature. While government has a role, Houston could be a leader in encouraging individual and private initiatives: family nature clubs and green gyms, a city- or state-wide Natural Teachers network, and an informal network of health-enhancing organizations focused on nature.

Houston could champion a vast, homegrown native park of lawns and private land holdings replanted with native species across neighborhoods and outward through the piney woods and prairies. It could build biodiversity while improving human well-being—and, not incidentally, helping create an even more robust economy. Houston (and probably your city, too) already has the leadership. The region and state of Texas have been assembling a mix of nonprofit organizations, government entities, and private enterprises that envision a nature-rich future.

What if leaders put their sights on a goal even more ambitious than energy efficiency? What if they began to imagine, and then make real, a nature-rich city? Such thinking may sound far-fetched—but Texans like to think big.

What about your city?

About the Author: Richard Louv is a futurist and journalist focused on family, nature and community. He has a palette of many colors, nuances, interrelationships. He has written often about families and children, personal ethics, our national character, even fishing and our ties to the natural world. But with equal intensity, he has turned to the challenges of public leadership, urban design, how regions use their land and shape their communities. Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder* (Algonquin, 2005), has stimulated an international conversation about the future relationship between children and nature. Louv is the chairman of the Children & Nature Network (www.childrenandnature.org), an organization helping build the movement to connect children with nature.



STS Scholarship Essay– The Importance of Street Trees by Danielle Booth

The land we live on was once inhabited by trees, but each year, thousands of trees are being replaced with buildings, roads, and parking lots. Becoming educated in Arboriculture has opened my eyes to the importance and beauty of the tree. The existence of trees helps our environment, our economy, and connects us to the history of our community.

Trees contribute to our environment by producing oxygen, reducing sound, temperature, carbon dioxide, and storm water runoff, and improving property value and wildlife habitats. During the photosynthesis process, trees take in smog-filled atmospheric gases and release cleaner, oxygen-filled gases. Ridding of "dirty" air helps keep the environment cleaner and our bodies healthier. Not only do trees keep the air fresh, they may keep our wallets full.

Many people don't realize the effect trees can have economically. The Center for Urban Forest Research states that trees over 50 feet tall contribute about \$65 a year back to the environment. Smaller trees contribute \$18-\$36 a year. In 2005, NASA estimated the world to have over 400 billion trees. Assuming that an average tree saves \$45 each year, 400 billion trees would save the world \$18,000,000,000,000. This extremely large contri-



bution can come from a number of things. Shade and evapotranspiration from trees can lower the temperature, increasing the conservation of energy. Trees can also increase property values. Though an exact value cannot be put on a specimen, it has been proven that the presence of trees brings a value to the cost of the property. Beyond the environmental and economical contributions of the tree, it can also connect us to the history of our community.

Many people relate whole towns or areas to the trees that grow there. Places like Yosemite and the Redwood Forest bring a direct relation to the trees that reside there. A connection between a tree and its community can be even more specific. An exhibit of the Morton Bay Fig can be found in Balboa Park in San Diego, California. Planted in 1915 during the Exposition, the tree is more than 70 feet tall and has a canopy spread of 125 feet.

Trees can be found all over the world. We climb them, swing from them, use them as wood; but not many people stop and think about the importance of a tree. Trees help our environment, our economy, and our community. Where would the world be without them?

STS August 2013 General Meeting

Have you ever considered how you could make a difference in your community? Become part of the Street Tree Seminar leadership and find out just how easy it is when you join leaders in other communities.

Past president John Conway is now accepting nominations to serve STS in a bigger way. If you are interested in serving as Secretary or as a director, contact John by phone at 949/644-3083 or by email at: jconway@newportbeachca.gov.



Nominations will be announced at the October meeting and an electronic ballot will go out in November.

Please remember to RSVP to Christy Cuba so we can prepare.

Upcoming Meeting Announcement

Mark your calendars!

You won't want to miss our next meeting
A Discussion on Trees - featuring Dr. Matt Ritter
Followed by a walk around the gardens

Date: October 24, 2013

Time: 10:30AM—1:30PM

Location: Huntington Library and Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108

Cost: \$15— Pre-Registration \$20— At the Door

RSVP to Christy@cycarlberg.com

