



## 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	The Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens San Marino, CA
December 12	Annual Scholarship Awards and Officer Induction	Kellogg West Pomona, CA
January 23	2014 Winter WTMS all day program	Pomona Fairplex 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."*



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.



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

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.

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?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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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.

Trees contribute to our environment by producing oxygen, reducing sound, temperature, carbon dioxide, and storm water runoff, and improving property value and wildlife habitats.

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.



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.

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.

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

Our August 2013 meeting was held in the beautiful City of Santa Clarita Sports Complex. Past Presidents in attendance were: Dan Jensen, Kevin Holman, Wayne Smith

Prizes were donated by: RPW Services, Wayne Smith, Carlberg & Associates, Robert Sartain, Fred Roth, Emina Darakjy
Winning tickets belonged to: Carlos Mendoza, Kay Hoewel, Katie Knybel, Larry Bracken, Dave Roger, Robert Sartain, Joe Rowles

Next Meeting: Please join us on October 24, 2013 “A Discussion about Trees” Dr. Matt Ritter at the beautiful Huntington Library and Gardens. Stay after the meeting and take a walk with Matt and friends around the grounds

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

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.

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

