



# STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

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



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**May 22, 2014**  
**Soil & Plant Lab w/ Paul Santos**  
**East Anaheim Comm. Center**  
**Anaheim Hills, CA**

## 2014 MEETING SCHEDULE

May 22	Soil & Plant Lab w/Paul Santos	Anaheim, CA
June 19	Annual Golf Tournament	Anaheim, CA
July 24	WTMS Summer Program	Pomona, CA
August 21	Palm Walk & Talk w/ Don Hodel	Costa Mesa, CA
Oct 23	TBD	TBD
Dec 18	Annual Scholarship & Officer Installation	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."

Remember to email Christy Cuba at [leon.boroditsky@lacity.org](mailto:leon.boroditsky@lacity.org) with your reservation



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

# STS Newsletter

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## The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer

By Leon Boroditsky

The March 27, 2014 Street Tree Seminar meeting was held at the beautiful LA County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens where their own botanist Frank McDonough talked about Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB). Frank McDonough studied at Cal Poly Pomona, has taught for the University of California and has been on staff at the Arboretum since 1998. Frank called PSHB a game changer, paradigm shift and a scary insect/disease model. He said the destruction and economic damage will be much greater than a large bomb.



ST member Ted Lubeshkoff gets hands-on learning.

PSHB was first noticed in the Whittier Narrows in 2003 but was misidentified as a close relative, tea shot hole borer *Euwallacea fornicatus* (an exotic Asian ambrosia beetle) from which it is morphologically indistinguishable. In 2010 the pest was found on a box elder (*Acer negundo*) and in 2012 PSHB was found on avocados where the damage formed pillars of exudate called "sugar volcanos." Akif Escalen a plant pathologist from UC Riverside quickly mobilized as he was a member of the Avocado Board. Around this same time, damage was being identified at different sites primarily in the San Gabriel Valley: a *Koelreutaria* at the Arboretum; different species at the Huntington Library; coast live oak and California sycamore at Eaton Canyon in Altadena; red willow in Pasadena Glen and the Arroyo Seco.



Frank McDonough leads a walking tour of the LA Arboretum

PSHB spreads a few species of fungus: *Fusarium euwallaceae*, *Fusarium solani* and *Graphium* sp. As well this species of *Euwallacea* sp.

prefers live wood where most shot hole borers prefer dead wood. Limiting the movement of the infected wood ("wood hygiene") is of utmost importance at curbing the spread of the beetle as they have emerged from 1" chipped pieces of wood. The wood needs to be chipped and composted under plastic sheeting on site. They seem to enter at the base of branches, prefer humidity and are attracted by alcohol. There are no insecticidal control, the beetle bore deep into the host plant, are very incestuous. At pre-

sent there are 26 known host plants including: Box Elder (*Acer negundo*), Castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), Avocado (*Persea americana*), English Oak (*Quercus robur*), California coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) silk tree (*Albizia julibrissin*) Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Coral tree (*Erythrina coralladendron*), Titoki tree (*Alectryon excelsus*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) and Blue Palo Verde (*Cercidium floridum*).

After his presentation, Frank took the group on tour of the Arboretum showing the damage PSHB has inflicted on the gardens. We started at the *Koereuteria* which was the first victim identified at Arboretum, which is still hanging in there. We moved on to the English oak (*Quercus robur*) which has sustained much beetle infestation. After we moved through the garden enjoying the majestic beauty, taking note of much more than the PSHB as Frank is a wealth of knowledge and the group added much to the discussion, making the tour extremely enlightening. We moved on through the garden to take note of a few species of trees that are exciting new introductions to the Southern California urban forest including two species from Mexico: *Quercus polymorpha* and *Platanus Mexicana*. Both species show more promise than just resistance to Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer. If it's been a while since you've visited the LA County Arboretum, you may want to return soon (<http://www.arboretum.org/>).



PSHB Damage to a tree

Frank also teaches nighttime photography classes which meet one evening a month.

### Pest Alert: *Geosmithia pallida* & Western Oak Bark Beetle

Declining Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees have recently been found throughout urban landscapes in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Monterey Counties. The fungal species *Geosmithia pallida* was recovered from symptomatic plant tissues in association with the western oak bark beetle *Pseudopityophthorus pubipennis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae). Pathogenicity tests on detached shoots showed that *G. pallida* is pathogenic to coast live oak seedlings and produced symptoms of foamy canker.

**Symptoms:** Symptoms occurring on the trunk and primary branches include wet discoloration seeping through entry holes caused by the western oak bark beetle (*Pseudopityophthorus pubipennis*). Peeling back of the outer bark reveals phloem necrosis surrounding the entry hole, and multiple entry holes may be observed on each tree. As the disease advances, a reddish sap may ooze from the entry hole, followed by a prolific foamy liquid. This foamy liquid may run as far as 2 feet down the trunk.

**The Beetle:** Western oak bark beetle is a small beetle that burrows through the bark, excavating shallow tunnels under the bark across the grain of the wood. Female beetles lay their eggs in the tunnels; the developing larvae tunnel at right angles to these, but mostly within the phloem (inner bark) close to the surface (Costello et al 2012).

**Note: Symptoms may be confused with those caused by Fusarium Dieback/Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB).**

The size of the entry hole associated with foamy canker is smaller than that made by the PSHB.

**Who to contact if you find the problem:** If you suspect that you have found these symptoms of the foamy canker on your tree please contact either your local farm advisor, pest control advisor, county Ag Commissioner office or Dr. Akif Eskalen [akif.eskalen@ucr.edu](mailto:akif.eskalen@ucr.edu). For more information visit [www.eskalenlab.ucr.edu](http://www.eskalenlab.ucr.edu)



Fig. 4. Brown canker caused by the fungus in the bark.



Fig. 1. Branch die back symptoms of foamy canker



Fig. 2. A cinnamon colored gum, followed by a creamy, foamy sap, running down the bark.



Fig. 3. Brown discolored canker caused by the fungus on the bark.

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### STS March 2014 General Meeting

Our March 2014 meeting was held at the beautiful LA Arboretum.

Past Presidents in attendance were: Alan Hudak, Kevin Holman, Dan Jensen

Prizes were donated by: Ann Hope & Mauget, Christy Cuba, Alan Hudak, Kevin Holman & RPW

Raffle Winners: Jon Baker, Emina Darakjy, Ross Montes, Annie Sheets, Ann Hope, Tom Paulson, Rebecca Criscillis, Scott McAlaster, Kevin Holman & Alan Hudak

Next Meeting: Please join us May 22nd for Soil & Plant Lab with Paul Santos at the East Anaheim Community Center- RSVP to [leon.boroditsky@lacity.org](mailto:leon.boroditsky@lacity.org)

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.

**STS Golf Tournament:** STS is holding our annual golf tournament June 19th at Dad Miller Golf Course in Anaheim. This is a great opportunity to network and have fun while supporting the STS scholarship fund. Please visit [www.streettreeseminar.com](http://www.streettreeseminar.com) to download the registration form & sign up.

We are also looking for sponsors and raffle prize donation. For more information please contact Heather in the STS office- [heather@streettreeseminar.com](mailto:heather@streettreeseminar.com) or 714.639.6515



### STS Board in the Community!

With March being heavy in Arbor Day and Earth Day Celebrations, STS' board has been out and about and representing us in our communities.



Emina Darakjy at the City of Beverly Hills Earth Day Event



Emina Darakjy, Ken Pfalzgraf & his daughter Kendra representing at the City of Santa Clarita Arbor Day event/.

### Save the Date!

#### Mark Your Calendars!

Our Bi-Annual Western Management Tree Symposium: Summer Program

Date: July 24, 2014

Kellogg West , 3801 W. Temple Ave., Pomona, CA

Registration Opening Soon @ [www.streettreeseminar.com](http://www.streettreeseminar.com)

