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

GROW OUR COMMUNITY
invest from the ground up
Growing Trees Make Great Neighborhoods
WWW.CATREES.ORG

SAVE THE DATE:

July 23, 2015

WESTERN TREE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM - Summer Workshop

The Human Side of the Urban Forest

Kellogg West -Pomona, CA

2015 Meeting Schedule

June 19	Annual Golf Tournament	**DeBell Golf Course** Burbank, CA
July 23	WTMS Summer Symposium – The Human Side of Arboriculture	Kellogg West Conference Center Pomona, CA
Sept. 24	Topic TBD	Long Beach, CA
Dec. 17	Annual Scholarship Awards & Officer Installation	Kellogg West Conference Center Pomona, CA

Interested in hosting a program in your community? We are interested in hearing from you!
Contact heather@streettreeseminar.com

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 Ann Hope at ann@mauget.com with your reservation

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

STS Newsletter

MAY/JUNE 2015 **VOLUME XXI ISSUE 3**

Trees, Water & The Chavez Ravine Arboretum - A great day with Donald Hodel

Landscape plants (trees, shrubs, groundcovers, lawns, and flowers) and the water they use are under unrelenting attack as the unprecedented California drought enters its fourth year. However, most of these attacks are misguided when one looks at the facts.

The Facts about Landscape Water Use Landscape water use in California accounts for only 9% of the total statewide water use. Yes, that's right, just 9%. Thus, if we never watered another home or public landscape, park, sports field, or golf course in California, the State would save 9% of its total water consumption, which doesn't seem like much when one considers the essential functions and innumerable benefits that landscape plants provide to enhance the quality of our lives and make urban areas livable. To name just a few, these tree, shrubs, groundcovers, lawns, and flowers provide:

1. Oxygen;
2. Carbon sequestration to help mitigate global warming;
3. Rain capture, dust and erosion control;
4. Shade and energy savings in heating and cooling;
5. Wildlife habitat;
6. Food;
7. Beauty and ornament;
8. Recreation;
9. Enhanced property values;
10. Psychological well-being;
11. Cultural/Historic value.

Of that 9% of the statewide landscape water use, residential accounts for 7% while parks, golf courses, sports fields, and similar large landscapes account for 2%. Landscape irrigation is estimated to account for about 50% of annual residential water consumption statewide. That amount varies widely from about 30% in many coastal communities to 60% or more in many inland suburban communities.

What about Lawns? Lawns, which have been especially singled out as water wasting culprits, are estimated to use 40% to 60% of that 9%, or just 3.5% to 5% of total statewide water use. Lawn grasses are classified as either cool-season (tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, ryegrass, bentgrass) or warm-season (bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, St. Augustinegrass, buffalograss) based on whether they grow best in cooler seasons (fall to spring) or warmer seasons (spring to fall). Cool-season grasses, of which tall fescue is the most common lawn grass, are among the most water-demanding landscape plants. However, landscape water requirement research at the University of California has shown that, when properly managed and irrigated, warm-season grasses require 20% less water than that needed by tall fescue, so considerable water can be saved without removing turf altogether. Also, the research revealed that most woody trees, shrubs, and groundcovers, including those traditionally used in California landscapes, perform well with 45% to 55% less water than that needed by tall fescue.

Appropriate Tree Selection, Planting, and Management Are Critical to Conserving Water Selecting the right tree for the right situation and then planting and maintaining it properly are critical to conserving water. Select species that are environmentally well adapted to the site and that fit the intended use or function. Consider the ultimate height and spread of the tree. Plant the tree correctly, at grade, and with no organic material in the backfill. Apply and maintain 1 to 2inches of mulch. Irrigate judiciously.

What is Judicious Irrigation? Judicious irrigation follows the principle of applying only that amount of water the tree needs when it needs it. Simply irrigating in a judicious manner can save significant amounts of water, and might be sufficient by itself to meet mandatory 25% to 35% water reductions without changing the landscape to so-called "low-water use" or "drought-tolerant" plants. Remember that most woody plants are actually drought tolerant or low-water use once established if planted and cared for properly. Three steps comprise judicious irrigation:

1. Goal: moisten upper 12 inches of root zone at each irrigation event.
2. When upper 12 inches of root zone reaches 50% moisture depletion (about when the soil 1 to 2 inches deep just becomes dry), then irrigate to moisten the upper 12 inches of root zone. This amount is about 0.5 inch of water on a sandy soil and 1.5 inches of water on a clay soil. You can also determine 50% depletion by tracking historic or real-time ETo data from a nearby CIMIS station; when daily ETo accumulates to 50% (0.5 inch for sandy soil, 1.5 inches for clay soil), then it is time to irrigate.
3. Don't irrigate again until the upper 12 inches of root zone reaches 50% soil moisture depletion.

Three Basic Principles for Proper Landscape Irrigation
Adhere to these three general principles to reduce landscape water use:

1. **Improve irrigation system performance.** Fix any leaks; replace spray heads or other non-functioning emitters; align spray heads so there is no overspray onto pavement; clear plant material that is blocking emitters; and adjust, add, or move spray heads so that their spray patterns overlap one another 100%. Replace an irrigation controller if it does not have at least three programs; four start times per program; an offsetting that interrupts irrigation without losing the programmed settings during a rain event; odd/even, weekly and interval program capability up to 30 days; and a water budgeting adjustment in 10% increments.
2. **Improve irrigation schedules and water management practices.** Determine how much water your irrigation system applies during a typical cycle. Run irrigation systems between about midnight and 6:00 AM. Adjust irrigation sys-

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Notes from our May 2015 General Meeting

Our May 2015 meeting was held at the Grace E. Simons Lodge in Elysian Park, Los Angeles.

Past Presidents in attendance were: Kevin Holman, Wayne Smith, Rose Epperson, Alan Hudak, Fred Roth

Prizes were donated by: Ann Hope, Emina Darakjy, Leon Boroditsky, Christy Cuba, WD Young, City of Santa Clarita, Alan Hudak and Kevin Holman

Raffle Winners: George Guerrero, Emina Darakjy, Greg Novosel, Ann Hope, Wayne Smith, Rigoberto Rodriguez, Rich Records, Fernando Juarez, Jose Gonzalez, Acacio Castaneda, Leon Boroditsky

Next Meeting: Please join us June 19th for the STS Golf Tournament and July 23rd for our Summer WTMS Program. Visit our website for more information or to register. Www.streettreeseminar.com

Trees, Water & the Chavez Ravine, *cont'd from page 1*

tem run times at least monthly. Many non-turf plantings will perform acceptably if irrigation is simply reduced 10 to 30% because landscapes are commonly over watered. To estimate closely the amount of water your lawn and other landscape plantings require, see the irrigation calculators under the Landscape Water Conservation tab at *www.ucanr.edu/cluh*. Reducing lawn irrigation below the amount estimated in the on-line calculator could result in non-optimum performance; however, reducing the amount by 10 to 20% during the summer should enable a lawn to survive and recover or be reseeded in the fall or following spring if water is not restricted at that time.

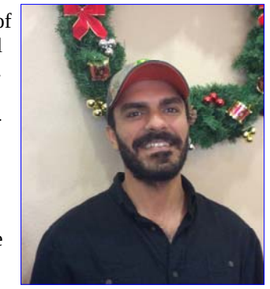
3. **Adjust plant care practices.** Raise the lawn mowing height to at least 3 inches in tall fescue and 1.5 inches in bermudagrass or other warm-season grasses. Avoid pruning shrubs and trees. Fertilize lawns only moderately and generally omit fertilizing most other plants. Apply and maintain mulch.

Priorities for Landscape Irrigation in a Severe Drought Setting priorities during times of water scarcity are crucial. Here are some to consider:

1. Ensuring that public parks, school play grounds, and sports fields have sufficient water to maintain their landscape plantings and lawns should be a high priority. Children and young adults need to play and exercise on grass, not asphalt or dirt, and we all benefit from walking and exercising in a green, pastoral setting
2. Ensuring that bonafide botanical gardens and arboreta have sufficient water to maintain their collections should also be a high priority. These institutions have documented, curated, scientific collections of plants that have immense research and educational value. One wouldn't turn off the fire alarm and fire suppression and other protective systems at The Getty, so why turn off the water at a botanical garden or arboretum? Indeed, these research collections of plants have immense value. For example, the plant collections at the world-famous San Diego Zoo actually have greater value than the animals. It can be argued that the value of the plant collections at, for example, The Huntington in San Marino, is equal to if not greater than its art or library holdings.
3. Water the trees. Trees form the infrastructure of our landscapes and urban forest, and are their permanent or, at least, most long-lived and valuable components around which the other plants intermesh, if not depend. Mature trees are among the most valuable and difficult-to-replace plants in urban areas. Their loss would be devastating. Trees can be likened to the steel framework of a building; how could the building exist without it. So, keep the trees watered.
4. Limit lawns to areas that require its function as a recreational or walkable surface or where erosion or dust control is needed. Remember that lawns are relatively easy and inexpensive to install and established compared to woody plants and groundcovers; thus, if severe water cuts are mandated, irrigation of functional lawns could be greatly reduced or eliminated to allow continued irrigation of high-value woody plants and groundcovers.

Conclusion: In conclusion, cost/benefit analyses clearly show that landscape plants are worth the investment in resources, especially water, even in this time of severe drought. Landscape plants are worth having and saving. Through appropriate plant selection and proper management and irrigation, based on the science and technology mostly developed at the University of California, we can have our cherished landscapes, enjoy the innumerable amenities and benefits they provide, and, yes, still save water.

STS Scholarship Essay– The Importance of Street Trees~ Joseph Wolf



I wonder if people in Southern California appreciate the trees that they drive by every day on urban, suburban and rural streets. How true it is that we do not know the value of what we have until it is gone. I wish I could take large groups of Southern Californians to cities such as Cairo, where I grew up. I never got to see a single plant until I was six years of age, when I went to work for farmers in upper Egypt. Cairo is a city that never stops and never sleeps. The second most densely populated city in the world, it should be considered one of the most lively places on Earth. Millions of people coming and going, working, laughing, driving, honking. Greek philosophers considered Cairo to be the mother of the Earth. If those philosophers saw her today, they might weep at the death of their mother.

Cairo, like many urban and suburban environments around the world, is a desolate place in my eyes. Look anywhere, you will not see a single plant, you will not hear birds singing, you will not see butterflies fluttering, and you will be suffocated by the pollution, soil erosion, and superheated asphalt and concrete. It gets so hot in Cairo that people spray down the concrete in front of their homes and shops just to cool down the air through evaporation. The weather in Cairo is almost exactly like that of Southern California, a Mediterranean climate. We take for granted the fact that trees preserve our soils, cut down on pollution, clean our air, shade out homes and walkways, provide energy savings, provide us with shelter from both sun and rain, provide habitat for millions of beneficial species, provide color to an otherwise grey and depressing landscape, and make us happy. Research has shown that taking regular walks in the park or going on hikes not only improves the quality of physical health but permanently increases our sense of well-being. What would the world be like without trees? I know, I've seen it, and I never want to live in that world again.

**Joseph is out last of three scholarship recipients for 2014. Joseph comes to California by way of a challenging start in Cairo, Egypt. He was hired as a child to work the farmer's fields, and his passion was born. Joseph is currently pursuing degrees in IPM, Livestock Management, and Agri-Tech, along with certificates in Tree Care & Maintenance, Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture at Mt. SAC*

Summer 2015 WTMS~ Don't Miss this Opportunity~ Register Today!

The Summer 2015 WTMS, The Human Side of Arboriculture, is coming July 23, 2015. Join us for a great day of education and networking, plus lunch and CEUs!

****Kellogg West @ Cal Poly Pomona****
Thursday, July 23, 2015
3801 W. Temple Ave Bldg 76, Pomona, CA
Registration online at www.streettreeseminar.com
For information call Heather @ 714.639.6516

Upcoming Industry Events

June 19	STS Golf Tournament	Burbank, CA	www.streettreeseminar.com
July 1	Australian Trees in California	San Marino, CA	www.baobabbotanical.com
July 29-31	TRAQ Los Angeles	Los Angeles, CA	www.wcisa.net/events
Aug. 21-22	PTCA Seminar & Field Day	San Diego, CA	www.ptcasandiego.org

"We Can Learn A Lot From Trees; They're always grounded, but never stop reaching heavenward"~ Everett Mamor