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

Save Our Water and Our Trees!
saveourwater.com/trees

2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

March 24	Growing California's Urban Forest CaUFC and CalFire	LA City Hall Los Angeles, CA
May 26	General Meeting	TBD
June 23	STS Annual Golf Tournament	Dad Miller Golf Course Anaheim, CA
July 21	WTMS Summer Program	Kellogg West Pomona, CA
August 25	General Meeting	TBD

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

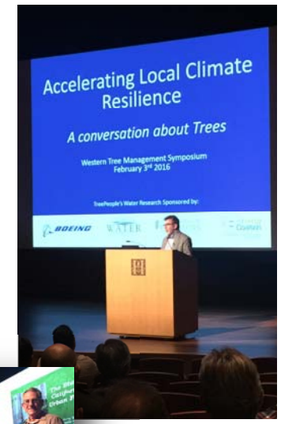
STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC. - Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

STS Newsletter

MARCH/APRIL 2016 **VOLUME XXII ISSUE 2**

WTMS Winter Program: A Conversation about Trees

Attendees at this year's winter conference were treated like kings and queens by Dr. Jim Folsom and his team at the Huntington Library and Gardens. Led by STS President, Leon Boroditsky, Dr. Folsom welcomed his colleagues from all over the southland to his living lab. He shared with us the history of the gardens and shared a great deal of information on their research and plant life. We were honored to have Andy Lipkis founder of TreePeople as our keynote. His talk on local climate resilience and the importance of our working in collaboration with each other as well as nature hit a home run with the group.



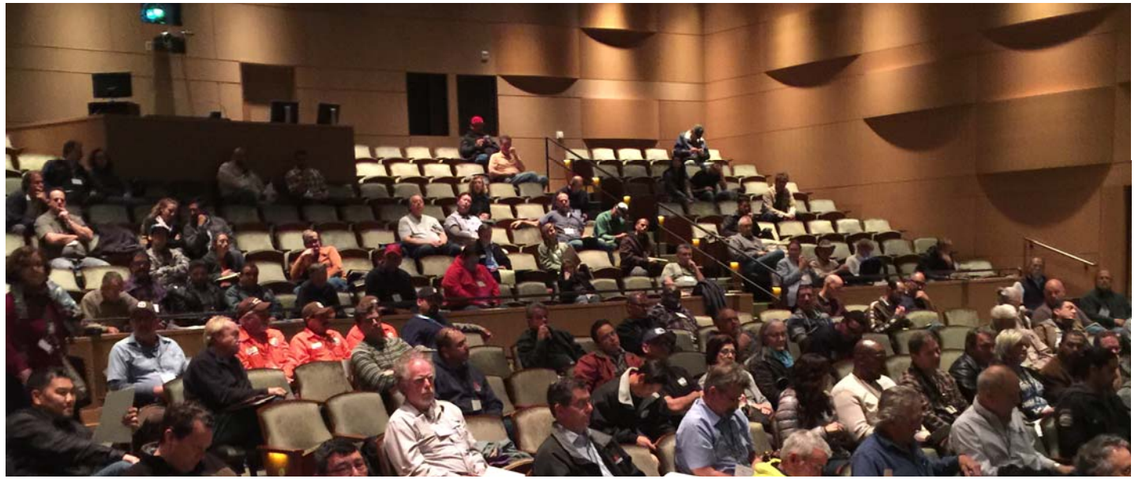
We had a unique opportunity to learn about the research and results coming out our the USFS Research Center and the great collaborations that have built with local researchers and communities while looking at trees in our area. The team of Drs. Greg McPherson, Natalie VanDoorn and James Downer each took a subject and enriched the attendees knowledge of climate ready trees as well as the current research in Claremont and Santa Monica. Greg rounded out the day with a great discussion on the state of our southern California forest.

We continued our conversation with Joe McBride from UC Berkeley and Jeff Reimer from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with street trees for our changing climate and the nursery connection as well as tools for identifying and locating the best trees for our conditions.

Dr. John Kabashima delighted the group with his colorful exploration of our Southern California pests. When faced with an aging forest and so many environmental challenges (drought, construction and misuse) the opportunity for the introduction of new pests can be daunting. Luckily we have great resources like Dr. Kabashima, Downer and Donald Hodel to help us through. John also gave us some good insight on our we as practitioners can help stop the spread by proper wood disposal and tool maintenance.

At the end of the day, we recognized Keith Condon for his excellence in identification of plant material as part of our ID Challenge. Once again, the professionals came out on top. It would be great to get more students attending to up the ante on the fun and educational plant id event. Thanks to our past president Fred Roth for organizing the clippings and stepping back into his professional role to score the sheets. Fred also provided us with the beautiful turned wood bowls for our speaker gifts. We would be remiss if we didn't thank board member, Emina Darakjy for her continued support bringing us back to the Huntington—the venue was exquisite.

We had a wonderful day and look forward to our summer program at Cal Poly Pomona.



How to reach us

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

PAST PRESIDENT
Christy Cuba
Carlberg Associates
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl., #241
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626/428-5072

VICE PRESIDENT
Ken Pfalzgraf
City of Beverly Hills
455 N. Rexford Dr. Rm 200
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
310/285-2537

SECRETARY
Ann Hope
JJ Mauget
5435 Peck Rd
Arcadia, CA 91006
626/321-2473

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

DIRECTORS

Rebecca Criscillis
City of Beverly Hills
455 N. Rexford Dr. Rm 200
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
510/725-2915

George Olekszak
Tree Pros
15077 La Palma Dr
Chino, CA 91710
909/548-0033

Lucas Mitchell
City of Rancho Cucamonga
8794 Lion Street
RC, CA 91730
909/477-2730

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.streettreeseminar.com
714/639-6516

Congratulations to our WTMS Drawing Winners

Many thanks to our table top exhibits for supporting the event ArborJet, Mauget, RPW Services, Inc., Tree Pros, Inc. and Western Chapter ISA

Prizes were donated by: Tree Pros, Mauget, Epicenter Management, Ken Pfalzgraf, Christy Cuba, STS, Walt Warriner, Arborjet, and Kevin Holman **Drawing Winners:** Congratulations to all of our raffle prize winners, especially **Gabriel Andrade** who took home a new flat-screen TV!

Saving the Joshua Tree

Scientists at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center have teamed up with researchers at Willamette University, a liberal arts college in Salem Oregon, to develop genetic tools that could save the Joshua tree from extinction. Together with scientists from The University of Georgia and the University of British Columbia, and with the support of several Mojave Desert conservation organizations, researchers are inviting members of the public to help get the project off the ground by making donations at the crowdfunding site Experiment.com. In the past two weeks, more than 100 backers have donated more than $4,000 to The Joshua Tree Genome Project. The project aims to raise $8,500 by March 24th.

Joshua trees are the iconic species of the Mojave Desert, the hottest and driest desert region of North America. This keystone species provides food and habitat for many other species, and numerous State and National Parks are dedicated to their conservation. However, emerging research suggests that Joshua trees are disappearing across much of the Mojave Desert, perhaps because of ongoing global warming. Some scientists predict that the trees may go extinct within the next 100 years.

The project, one of 17 projects that are participating in Experiment.com's Liberal Arts College Pilot Program. The pilot program at Experiment.comaims to bring the power of crowdfunding to research labs at small undergraduate institutions. To help support colleges participating in the program, Experiment will contribute an extra $2,000 to the project that receives the most donors by March 16th.

"Understanding the genome will help us make conservation plans that allow Joshua tree to adapt to changing climates and environments," said project scientist Christopher Irwin Smith, a biologist at Willamette University. "The genome could also answer many important questions about the evolutionary history of this iconic desert species."

Yucca brevifolia Tikaboo Photo credit:Christopher Smith

"The data will provide our first detailed look into the Joshua tree genome," said Michael McKain, an evolutionary biologist working on the project and a post-doctoral associate at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. "It will allow us to untangle Joshua trees' diversity at the most basic level, and identify how major evolutionary events contributed to its unique form."

Ensuring that Joshua trees will flourish into the future means preserving the plants themselves and the genetic variation that will allow them to evolve in response to environmental changes. "Sequencing the Joshua tree genome is the first step to revealing the genetic basis of climate adaptations," said Jeremy Yoder, a post-doctoral fellow studying evolutionary biology at the University of British Columbia. "And from there we can identify gene variants that may allow Joshua trees to survive rising global temperatures."

Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. "Scientists using crowdfunding to sequence the genome of Joshua tree." ScienceDaily. Science-

The Importance Street Trees Essay– by Benjamin Brown, 2015 Scholarship Recipient

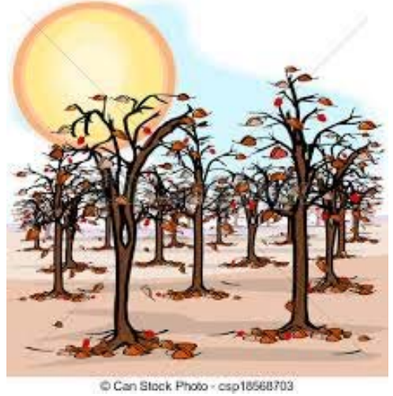
The state of California is currently in the worst drought seen in generations. Of course, this isn't news to anyone living here. There are many ways people try and conserve water. However, one of the best ways to conserve water is to continue using water– not haphazardly, but to keep alive one of the most important parts of our human ecosystem: our street trees.

This may sound counter-intuitive, but it has been proven that forested areas have better water retention, better developed ground water, and healthier overall ecosystems. Now, if this is true about natural forests, why can't it also be true for our urban forests?

Tree plantings build up and encourage rich, well balanced soils, no matter your soil type. The organic material produced by trees make any combination of clay, silt and sand better soil. This allows for better percolation of rainwater, which helps build up ground water stores– even raising the level of the water table. As porosity decreases, the soil becomes denser and more hydrophobic, which will cause rain water to run off rather than percolate into the water table. This situation has led to the formation of literal man-made deserts. We have altered entire ecosystems– and the water available in them.

Benjamin Brown, center, with Al Remyn and John Conway

Research in recent years has led to amazing discoveries about trees. According to Michael Allen in his presentation "Complex Mycorrhizal Feedbacks in a California Mixed Forest", given at the WCISA's conference in Yosemite this year, it has been discovered that mycorrhizal fungus connected to the roots of trees can actually connect multiple trees to each other. One tree with access to deep water may actually be able to keep a tree with little to no access to water alive. As the stomata in the leaves of a tree with access to water closes at night, osmotic pressure causes water to move down the tree and into the roots, where it can travel through mycorrhizal connections from one tree to another. This is just another way in which trees help keep water well distributed in an ecosystem. Consider the implications this could have on the value of our urban forest.



As this drought continues, the importance of keeping our trees alive is paramount. Healthy trees lead to healthy soil, and healthy soil is just what we need to absorb all of that wonderful rain water when it finally arrives.