



# STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

P.O. Box 6415  
Anaheim, CA 92816-6415

**NEXT MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 27, 2016**  
**TREE HORRORS**  
**SIMS TLC**  
**RIVERSIDE, CA**

## 2016/17 MEETING SCHEDULE

Oct 27	Tree Horrors	Sims TLC Riverside, CA
Dec 15	Annual Scholarship & Officer Installation	Kellogg West Pomona, CA
Feb 9	WTMS Winter Program	Huntington Gardens San Marino, CA

Interested in hosting a program in your community? We are interested in hearing from you!  
Contact [heather@streettreseminar.com](mailto:heather@streettreseminar.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](mailto:ann@mauget.com) with your reservation



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

# STS Newsletter

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## John Conway Retires from the City of Newport Beach

Street Tree Seminar would like to congratulate our 2012 Past President, John Conway, on his retirement from the City of Newport Beach. John has been a huge part of STS for many, many years, holding several board and committee positions in addition to acting as President. Many of us have gotten to know him personally over the years, and have benefited from his kindness and generosity. His presence will be greatly missed.

In addition to John's voluntary service to STS, he has served as the City arborist in the City of Newport Beach for 23 years. Dan Sereno, John's boss, shared with us some of John's many achievements.

Though he made his living as an arborist, John holds a psychology degree from CSC San Bernardino. In his professional career as an arborist, he holds several certifications: Certified Arborist with a Municipal specialty, TRACE certified, PCA and QAC. Before becoming the City arborist in NB, he worked as Crew Chief Tree Division for the City of San Bernardino for 15 years and Park Maintenance Supervisor of Trees for the City of Fontana for 8.5 years.

During his time at Newport Beach, John accomplished many things. He increased the total number of trees from 21K to 35K, revised 3 city tree



Mahoney, Conway, Griffiths

policies twice, created a parkway tree designation list with over 100 species selections, allowed other city arborists to attend and participate in STS programs, created a TPZ-Tree protection zone for property development, created root pruning standards and revised the specifications for contract documents for the Tree Maintenance Contract.

He also established several important projects; a 3 year pruning cycle, 22 tree pruning grids and a year-to-year tree pruning schedule indicating month to month locations of the tree pruning crews posted online for customers to view, a wildlife protection awareness standard for property developments and maintenance crews, annual pruning for all palms and large incident-prone trees such as Eucalyptus, Coral and Ficus. He also established the City of Newport Beach as Tree City USA for 25 years in a row, and began a reforestation program to reforest over mature and problem trees paid for by the applicant and approved by Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission. **Hats off to you, John! The world is a better place because of you.**

If you'd like to keep in touch with John, he's shared his personal contact info; you can call him at 909-763-1186 or email [papasmurf.conway4@gmail.com](mailto:papasmurf.conway4@gmail.com).



A man and his cake



## Save the Date!

February 9, 2017

WTMS Winter 2017

The Huntington Library & Gardens

San Marino, CA

CEUs will be available



**Minimizing the Impact of Drought, by George Gonzalez**

The state of California is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of severe drought, prompting Gov Brown to order 25% reductions in water usage from residents and municipalities. These measures are expected to save an estimated 500 billion gallons of water between now and February 2017. State water experts have stated that California has 2 years of water left in its reserves, though other scientists estimate only one year left if California's drought persists.

The impact on both our native and urban forests has been devastating; in 2014, an estimated 140 million+ trees have died in the national forests of S. California. Recent studies by the US Forest Service found that there are over 10 million trees in LA's urban forest, with about 80% on private property. So what can we do?

Ensure that your irrigation system is functioning properly, has the most up to date components and avoid runoff. Runoff means wasted water. No runoff means the water is being absorbed by the soil. Some ways we can accomplish this are by conducting an irrigation system evaluation, checking regularly for leaks, overspray, and runoff and then correct immediately; turn on each sprinkler zone and see how much time it takes to start generating runoff for each zone. Program your controller for multiple cycles; Irrigate early in the morning, between 2AM and 9AM, when there is little wind and no evaporation; hydrozone: group plants with the same water needs. Place water-loving plants on the lowest part of your property where water will naturally collect.

Prioritize your landscape requirements- Assign monetary, functional and condition values to your landscape. Trees are the single most important living element in your landscape. They require consistent care regardless of conditions, and therefore the highest priority should be on their maintenance and watering. Trees make our houses feel like home- they also improve property values, clean our water & air, and even make our streets safer & quieter. When we water wisely and maintain our trees carefully, we enjoy a wide range of benefits at a low cost and with little effort.

Give your trees a higher watering priority than turf and flowerbeds. Check for drought stress. Water deeply and slowly. Apply mulch. And if all else fails: consult a certified arborist!



**STS would like to congratulate George, our 2005 Past President, on his recent ISA Award.**

**"CHAMPAIGN, III. – George Gonzalez of San Pedro, California is this year's recipient of the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) Award of Achievement. This Award of Distinction recognizes ISA members for outstanding work in advancing the cause of arboriculture"**

Mr. Gonzalez, now retired, was the chief forester for the city of Los Angeles from 1998-2015. During that time he oversaw the maintenance of 700,000 street trees and more than 300 acres of landscaped medians throughout the city. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Municipal Forester Institute (MFI) held by the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA).

"As a founding member of MFI, Gonzalez has influenced the professional growth of many urban foresters," says de Gourét Litchfield, ISA board president. "His involvement the curriculum development for the institute has helped several hundred municipal arborists be better equipped to do their jobs."

"Municipal arborists have other duties and responsibilities besides managing trees," commented Gonzalez. Several hundred have now attended the institute and those who attend are better prepared to address additional issues they face on a daily basis. As Chief Forester, Gonzalez supported the Million Trees L.A. effort even during its unpopularity. Instead of dismissing the idea of planting a million trees as impossible, he helped refocus efforts to make tree plantings more achievable by inspiring City Plants, the tree planting program that was developed when Million Trees L.A. was phased out.

"I was able to convince the mayor of Los Angeles that a tree planting program was viable, but that we needed to plant trees in low canopy areas and focus on the multiple benefits of planting trees," explains Gonzalez. Today the focus of City Plants is to increase canopy coverage and provide work force development by training young people to plant and care for trees.

Well deserved, George!



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**Notes from our August 2016 Meeting**

Our August 2016 meeting was held at the beautiful Sherman Gardens & Library in Newport Beach.

**Past Presidents in attendance were:** Al Remyn, Alan Hudak, Kevin Holman, Paul Webb, George Gonzalez, John Conway, Rose Epperson, Christy Cuba

**Nest Meeting: October 27, 2017**

Join us at the Sims Tree Learning Center in Riverside as Susan Sims shares Tree Horror Stories. Don't be afraid... bring a friend and your own experiences to share!

Visit our website for more information or to register [www.streettreeseminar.com](http://www.streettreeseminar.com)

**STS 2017 Board Nominees**

Past President Christy Cuba would like to present our Slate of officers for the 2017 Board of Directors:

- President:** Ken Pfalzgraf
- Vice President:** Ann Hope
- Past-President:** Leon Boroditsky
- Secretary:** Lisa McCoy
- Treasurer:** Emina Darakjy
- Director 3rd Year-** George Olekszak
- Director 2nd Year-** Lucas Mitchell
- Director 1st Year-** Ted Lubeshkoff
- Sergeant-at-arms\*:** Vacant



*\*This is a great way to become more involved without major commitment! Interested? Give us a call @ 714.6396.6516 or email [heather@streettreeseminar.com](mailto:heather@streettreeseminar.com)*

Christy will entertain additional nominations from the floor at the October general meeting.

**CIRCLE: California Initiative to Reduce Carbon and Limit Emissions**

**Grant Plantings Near You! - beginning on October 22nd**

**Invest from the Ground Up is hosting CIRCLE Tree Plantings on several Saturdays in October in nine cities throughout California!**

They need planting leaders as well as general volunteers in Anaheim, Baldwin Park, Bellflower, Ceres, National City, La Puente, Ontario, Paramount, and Tracy. Go to [Investfromthegroundup.com/circle](http://Investfromthegroundup.com/circle) to sign up as a volunteer arborist! CEUs are available!

