



STS NEWSLETTER

A bimonthly publication of Street Tree Seminar
Your Los Angeles/Orange County Regional Forest Council

Wielding the A300 Standards: the Shield and the Sword with James Komen

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, we continue to hold our meetings online in lieu of in-person meetings.

Street Tree Seminar's May meeting was held virtually with James Komen as our speaker. James spoke on the ANSI A300 Standards and how to use them to protect yourself.

The ANSI A300 Standards are a documentation of what industry stakeholders can agree upon within the context of the ANSI approval process. When wielded correctly, they can form powerful legal weaponry to use both defensively and offensively. James discussed how to limit our liability when performing risk assessments by following the mandatory requirements. And also how to avoid offensive strategies by plaintiffs that attack insufficiency of inspections, reports, and pruning practices. The presentation emphasized the practical applicability of the standards to everyday arboricultural practice. The focus was on Part 1: Pruning, and Part 9: Risk Assessment, but from the start, it made clear that requirements in each of these sections are applicable to even those who do not perform pruning or perform risk assessment. We asked James for some key takeaways from his presentation. They follow below.

1) **READ THE STANDARDS.** They may protect you from unfair surprises, but they're only useful if you read them! Even if you have a copy, I strongly recommend going back for a refresher, in the same way you would take a CPR renewal course.

2) Respect the word "SHOULD" just as much as you respect the word "SHALL." The "shall" provisions are clearly mandatory. But even though the "should" provisions are merely "advisory recommendations," you must still follow them unless you have a defensible reason to deviate.

3) The standards apply to almost EVERYONE. Not only do they apply to arborists, but also to the tree manag-



ers or owners. An owner's specifications for tree pruning or risk assessment could potentially be in violation of the standards. If the specifications are improperly written, you as an arborist should tactfully call it to the owner's attention.

4) The criteria for individuals qualified to prune trees are extremely narrow. Pruning SHALL be performed ONLY by individuals meeting five mandatory criteria: trained, experienced, familiar with the standards, familiar with the practices, and familiar with the hazards of arboriculture. If any one of those criteria is not met, then it is a violation of the standards for that person to perform pruning. This doesn't just apply to YOU, it applies to your EMPLOYEES too.

5) The tree owner or manager is responsible for scheduling follow-up inspections or mitigation actions. But the arborist has the duty to tell the owner that follow-up inspections are necessary.

6) There are very specific elements that must be analyzed in every risk assessment: likelihood of failure, likelihood of impact, consequences, time frame, tree, site, and target information. If any one of those elements is not considered, then the risk assessment violates the standards.

James Komen is a consulting arborist in California specializing in risk assessment and tree appraisal. He helps clients make informed management decisions for individual trees and for tree inventories. His work has been published in Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, Arboricultural Consultant, Palms, Ontario Arborist and Western Arborist. He is an ISA TRAQ instructor and has taught workshops on tree appraisal around the U.S. and Canada.

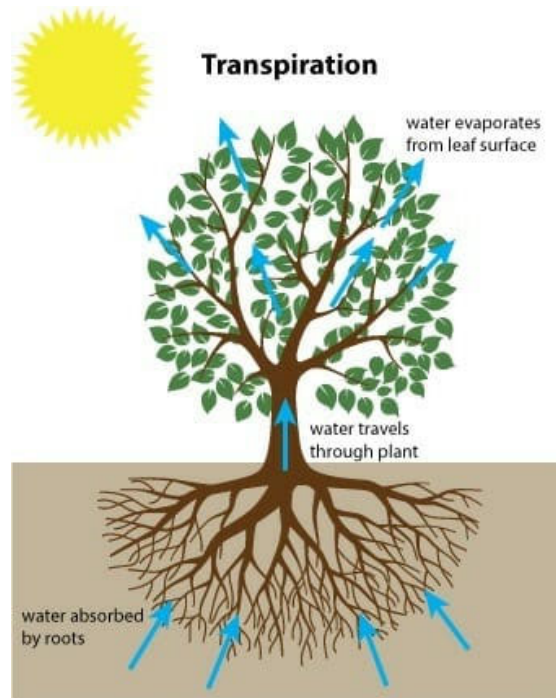


Scholarship Essay— by Noemi Gorostiola Vega

I work in property management, and a few years ago, I receive a complaint from one of our residents regarding the trees around the property becoming a nuisance. The resident wanted the tree close to her balcony to be removed. She was tired of cleaning the leaves from her patio furniture and dealing with birds that perch in the tree. We get quite a few complaints about trees. They usually describe the trees as a nuisance rather than an enhancement to the community. I find it surprising that some people think that way, especially with all the benefits of trees and vegetation.

In this day and age, with global warming, the reduction of natural spaces, and pollution, trees are proven to be a necessity rather than a nuisance. Trees serve as decorative objects or in the production of oxygen, but they also have many other functions that could help us repair or stop further damage to our ecosystem. One of the many benefits is their influence on the weather through a process called evapotranspiration. Trees and vegetation transpire water from their leaves in the form of vapor, just as humans do when we breathe. The roots in the soil absorb water, later transpiring excess water through their leaves, increasing the surface area contributing to the second part of the process: evaporation. Every time a molecule of water evaporates, it takes some of the heat with it. A large oak tree can transpire 40,000 gallons per year.

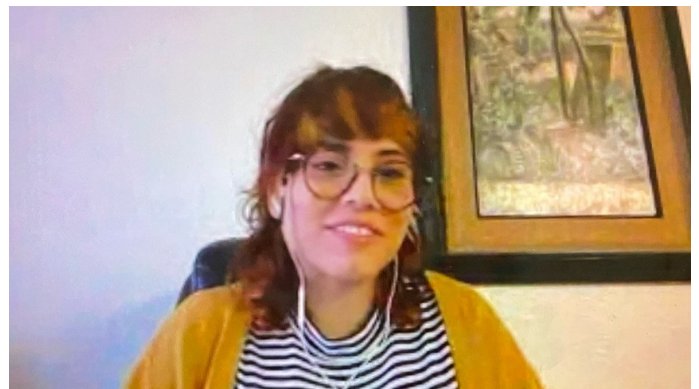
There are 1.67 sextillion water molecules in a drop of water! That is why even one tree makes a difference in our environment's temperature. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, evapotranspiration, in combination with shade from the trees, can help to reduce temperatures by 2 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit. The use of trees in urban areas to cool down the temperature has been proven to be beneficial. Urban areas need the most help in improving the quality of their climates.



For the most part, urban areas have higher temperatures due to their infrastructure which absorbs and radiates the sun's heat. This effect is called a heat island. With evapotranspiration, the planting of trees in strategic areas to shade buildings, asphalt, and windows reduces the higher temperature created by the heat island effect. Another benefit afforded by tree is improving air quality and lowering greenhouse emissions. Trees and vegetation help remove air pollutants such as carbon dioxide and filter particles from dust and ozone. Also, the cooling effect created by evapotranspiration lowers energy consumption by reducing the time air conditioners are in use in our homes and vehicles. Studies from the Environmental Protection Agency have shown evapotranspiration to cause a reduction in heating and cooling costs of 8 to 18 percent.

The reduction of temperature and energy consumption is just one of the benefits that affects us more directly. Still, there are many other benefits that not only help us but also other species. I am afraid not many people are aware of the importance of trees in our cities and how they can improve our lives. Raking leaves and trimming branches once in a while is such a small price to pay in exchange for what trees do for us.

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Noemi Gorostiola Vega - Noemi is our 2nd of three Scholarship recipients in 2020. Look for our third in the July/August issue!

WTMS Summer 2021– Right Tree, Right Place, Right Reason



Wednesday, July 21, 2021 - 8am to 3pm

"Right Tree, Right Place" has become a priority in municipal and community tree planting programs. Let us take it one step further. Join Street Tree Seminar for an in-depth conservation that not only looks at the right tree in the right place but adds in the concept of "for the right reason". Our goal for Right Tree, Right Place, Right Reason is that attendees go away with tools and concepts they can introduce in their community the very next day. 6.0 CEUs Available

8:00 AM	Welcome/Gathering	
8:15 AM	Trees for Tomorrow	Janet Hartin, University of CA Cooperative Extension
9:15 AM	Case Study: Tree Ambassador Program	Cristina Basurto, Koreatown Youth & Community Center, and Rachel O'Leary, LA City Plants
9:45 AM	First Breakout/Report Out	
10:15 AM	Break	
10:30 AM	Grounds for Success	Bob Perry, FASLA/Perry & Associates Collaborative
11:15 AM	Case Study: Healthy Soil for Healthy Communities Initiative	Yujuan Chen, Tree People
11:45 AM	9% and Irrigate Those Trees	Donald R. Hodel, UCCE Emeritus
12:45 PM	Mid-Day Break	
1:10 PM	Caring for Young Trees	Dr. Larry Costello, Oracle Oak
2:00 PM	Case Study: Watts Rising	Aaron Thomas, North East Trees, Inc.
2:30 PM	Second Breakout/Report Out	
3:00 PM	Final Thoughts	Rachel Malarich, City of Los Angeles



Member Cost: \$50 Non-Member Cost: \$75 Register & Join- \$80
Register Online at www.streettreeseminar.com
or call Heather 714.639.6516



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July 21	WTMS Summer– Right Tree, Right Place, Right Reason	online
Aug 20	STS August General Meeting <i>Managing Risk to Promote a Safe and Healthy LA/OC Urban Forest</i> <i>Grant funded by California Urban Forests Council City Forest Renewal project</i>	online
Oct 21	STS October General Meeting	TBD
Dec 16	STS Scholarship Awards/Officer Installation	TBD

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

INDUSTRY EVENTS

Street Tree Seminar, Inc. remains fully operational at this time. We have shifted our team members to working remotely following the guidelines of global health officials, but all association work is continuing. Some of our support services will be operating on reduced hours in order to focus on business continuity and operations. At this time, most face to face events have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic guidelines. There are many web based options available as well. We will share those as often as possible. Stay connected on our [FaceBook page](#)

July 7	CSI for Invasive Insects www.wcisa.net	Online
July 11	APA Tree Talk w. Jocelyn Cohen https://aestheticprunersassociation.org/event-4209961	Online
Aug 20/21	PTCA Annual Seminar & Field Day SAVE THE DATE Www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org	San Diego, CA
Sep 1	Seguridad en las Palmas– Spanish ONLY Www.wcisa.net	Online

MISSION

“To provide a forum for professionals to share their experience, knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the membership and the enhancement of Southern California’s Urban Forest”.



Street Tree Seminar is your Los Angeles / Orange County Regional Forest Council

VISION

“To enhance the health and beauty of Southern California’s Urban Forest”.