



STS NEWSLETTER

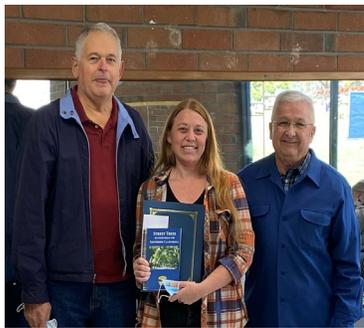
A bimonthly publication of Street Tree Seminar
Your Los Angeles/Orange County Regional Forest Council

December Meeting Recap: Street Tree Seminar recognizes two well deserved Scholarship Recipients for 2021 during our first “in person” meeting since February of 2020

Our 2021 Scholarship Awards and Officer Installation were held at Victory Park in Pasadena. It was an absolute pleasure to be able to honor our recipients and welcome our 2022 board in person!

Street Tree Seminar’s 2021 Scholarship Awards went to two fantastic recipients, Cherise Hunt and Sahar Fazelvalipour. Look for essays on the importance of street trees by our scholarship recipients in an upcoming newsletter. We were proud to host several of our prior scholarship recipients for lunch this year– it’s always great to see them and hear how they have grown professionally!

Cherise Hunt



Cherise is a student at Mt. San Antonio College with a course of study in horticulture. She has completed 22 units with a 4.0 GPA. Cherise is a widowed, homeschooling mother of 3. Cherise began gardening with her children after her

husband passed, and when her mother was diagnosed with cancer, she became interested in natural medicine and plants as medicine. She helped to prolong her mother’s life and health, and began at Mt. SAC with a dream of owning a medicinal nursery. After taking a course in tree and shrub ID, she fell in love with trees and her dream has expanded to include being a tree pathologist and help heal the plants that heal the people. Cherise’s application included THREE letters of recommendation from her professors at Mt SAC. Congratulations to Cherise and we look forward to seeing more from her in the future!

Sahar Fazelvalipour



Sahar is a student at Cal Poly Pomona with a course of study in Landscape Architecture. She is studying for her Masters Degree with a 3.7 GPA. She is also a student engineer at Cal Trans, and volunteers at local community centers

teaching English. Sahar is passionate about sustainable design and hopes to one day own her own landscape design business. Sahar plans to continue her education after her Masters and pursue her PhD. Congratulations to Sahar, and we look forward to seeing more from her in the future!



From L– Gretchen Heimlich, Chaz Perea, Jose Gama-Vargas, Sonia Rios, Jennifer Hinostrroza, Cherise Hunt, Sahar Fazelvalipour

Thank you to all of our prior donors and recipients– you all help make Street Tree Seminar amazing! Special thanks to the Scholarship Committee for their time and efforts making this program so great.

Street Tree Seminar’s Scholarship helps support local students in their journey into our industry. To sponsor a student or donate to the scholarship fund, contact heather@streettreeseminar.com

Great Trees of the LA/OC - Emina Darakjy

Ginkgo biloba

Ginkgo biloba - also called maidenhair tree
 Family: *Ginkgoaceae*
 Origin: Southeastern China

This is a tall deciduous tree, slow growing, it can reach a height of 50 to 80 feet and a spread from 25 to 40 feet.

When the tree is young the trunk bark is light gray becoming darker with irregular furrows as the tree matures. The leaves are flat and fan shaped, they start bright green in the summer turning to yellow in the fall before dropping like brilliant golden snowflakes carpeting the ground underneath. It is a beautiful sight to see.

The ginkgo flowers are unnoticeable and fragrant. The female variety produces fruit that looks like small plums (as seen in one of the attached pictures) that drop when ripe and has a foul smell when crushed by people walking on it. It can also cause a slip hazard. To avoid this nuisance, make sure you plant only male grafted cultivars. The fruit is however considered a delicacy in the Orient where the inside seed is roasted before it is consumed.

The Ginkgo adapts to any soil conditions, withstands air pollution, is drought tolerant, grows in partial shade but does better in full sun and is not recommended underneath power lines.

The Ginkgo can be found as a street tree, in medians and in parks. When given ample room to grow the tree exhibits wide spreading branches. If space is tight, try and plant some-

thing called "Fairmont" which grows in a conical form OR the "Princeton Sentry" which has an even narrower column like shape.

The Ginkgo does not require a lot of maintenance, it can benefit from some light spring pruning when young but hardly needs any when mature, does not have any significant known pest problems and is resistant to oak root fungus. It is worthy to note that the Ginkgo is considered as one of the oldest living trees. Research and fossil records show that the Ginkgo existed during the Jurassic period millions of years ago.



Photos by Emina Darakjy

To order a copy of the third edition of "Street Trees Recommended for Southern California", visit our website at www.streettreeseminar.com, or call Heather at 714.639.6516

2022 Board of Directors



From Left— Ernesto Macias, Dawn Fluharty, Cristina Basurto, Rachel Malarich, Emina Darakjy, Wister Dorta, Lucas Mitchell Not pictured: Adrian Sanchez

Please join us in welcoming our 2022 Street Tree Seminar Board of Directors.

President - Lucas Mitchell, City of Rancho Cucamonga

Vice President - Rachel Malarich, City of Los Angeles

Past President - Emina Darakjy

Treasurer - Dawn Fluharty, Arborjet

Secretary - Adrian Sanchez, City of Los Angeles

Directors -

- *Cristina Basurto, Koreatown Youth and Community Center*
- *Wister Dorta, City of Santa Monica*
- *Ernesto Macias, West Coast Arborists, Inc.*

Thank you all for your willingness to lead STS this year!

STS Member Highlight— Leon Boroditsky

Street Tree Seminar is proud to introduce long-time STS member and Past-President Leon Boroditsky as our very first member highlight in our new series.

Leon works for the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, Forestry Division. Leon is a past president of Street Tree Seminar, Inc. We asked Leon 6 questions about himself—The following are his answers:

How did you get started in this field?

I had just dropped out of university after completing 3 ½ years as a philosophy major. I was a bit aimless, to say the least. A good friend of mine went back to school to get a teaching credential and asked if I wanted to take over his job working for a residential arborist which I did. The name of the company was *Pruning *Tree Surgery Bonsai* and the owner was amazing. We did detailed, ornamental pruning of trees large and small, lots of fruit trees and bonsai. I was bit. My epiphany was simply “Trees!” It was as if I went from seeing 2 dimensionally to 3 dimensionally. A whole new universe opened up to me and my love affair with trees began. Arboriculture is physically challenging, scientifically based, dynamic, variable, creative and spiritual.

Describe your current job:

In my current iteration, I work as a municipal arborist for very large city which has its challenges and rewards. I supervise and coordinate the daily operation of 2 regional response crews and a citywide removal crew; oversee administrative and clerical staff; hire and discipline employees; coordinate with human resources; request and write budget justifications for additional staff and equipment; generate and update safety program for forestry operations; wrote and oversee Cal Fire grant for inventory and tree plantings; oversee maintenance and replacement of equipment; organize and respond to work assignment claims and sit in litigations; work directly with Council Offices on various projects; write and present reports to RAP Board of Commissioners; oversee our relationship with non-profit partners; oversee and plan Citywide Forestry events such as Arbor Day and volunteer plantings; work with various City Departments on capital improvement projects on RAP property; oversee Tree in Tribute program; update division policies and best management practices; update the Forestry Manual; keep employees current on commercial licenses, arborist and tree worker certifications; report to Mayor’s Water Board Tree Committee; report to CFAC; and on and on and on...

What are your goals, or what goals have you achieved, while working in this industry?

My goal is to clean up my little corner of the Universe, trying to make it a little better when I depart than it was when I arrived. For me, trees are the medium I use to work towards that goal. Trees provide so many tangible and intangible benefits. With caring for and planting trees, I hope to that my work will leave



ripples and resonance of these benefits for the future generations. I like to say: The act of planting a tree is to send future generations a love letter.

What have been your most memorable ‘teachable moments’ on the job?

Two very important lessons trees teach me is patience and humility. When working with trees, I try to assume the stately pace at which they grow. Trees may tell their stories over decades and even centuries. Some problems may only manifest once or twice in a trees life so you must remain open and curious

as to what is going on with the tree. I was working at an estate in Marin County in the early 90s and one year we had much late rain while the Kousa dogwoods were bloom. The trees were just coming into their own with a graceful and well balanced form. The blossoms got a blight from the late rain that caused twig and branch dieback. We took samples to the UC Cooperative Extension in Marin and had it diagnosed. The late rain was highly unusual and thus so was the disease. As well, the dieback molested the beautiful structure of the trees and it took many years for this to recover.

What is your biggest piece of safety advice/general advice for others in this industry?

Arboriculture is a challenging and diverse field with many specialties. Much of what we do is dangerous and usually has steep learning curves. Once we get comfortable and confident with our specialty, it’s common to become complacent. Complacency is a formula for accidents. Another pitfall we succumb to is to become apathetic. I have a lot of trees I’m responsible for and over a career many arborists work on thousands of trees. It’s easy to shrug your shoulders and dismiss our mistakes. Remain passionate and teachable and remember the value and impact a single tree can have on a property owner. I heard one of our industry leaders put it this way: I’ve removed many trees over my career I wish I hadn’t.

What advice do you have for someone who is interested in beginning in this industry?

My hope for someone starting out in Arboriculture is that they fall in love with trees. I hope they are filled with wonder and awe by the large, fragrant blossoms of magnolias; the smell of the champaca flower; the furrowed trunk of a cork oak or the bulbous trunk of a Queensland bottle tree; the subtle beauty of a young Japanese maple leaf breaking out of its bud; the pubescent young foliage on a cadagi tree; the strange flower on a devil’s hand tree; the unique flowers and fruit capsules on a spider gum; the stately stature of an old deodar cedar... I hope they remain curious and passionate continuing to learn as this field is constantly evolving and improving.

Thank you Leon for sharing a bit of yourself and your path in trees with the membership. We are grateful for the dedication you show to our industry.

Amplifying the Urban Forest Workshop & Planting Opportunities!

Please Come and Join an Event Near You!

AMplifying the Urban Forests is coming to a community near you on March 12, 2022. On this day, 2,000 urban trees will be planted in 30 communities across California by local grassroots volunteers. These trees will provide numerous environmental and public health benefits to the communities. They also beautify local neighborhoods. This CaUFC grant project is looking for certified arborists to help assist in workshops and tree training!

WORKSHOP: The CIRCLE partnership is offering educational workshops, with the need of an arborist to guide a nature walk!

WHEN: Every Saturday beginning January 29, 2022

TIME: Typically 8 - 10am

WHERE: Multiple locations throughout the state!

ARBOR DAY: Our volunteers will need help in planting 2,000 trees across California this Spring!

WHEN: Saturday, March 12, 2022 for all participating partners!

TIME: Typically 8am - 12pm



For more information on locations, and to sign up, visit www.investfromthegroundup.org or email Christi@wcisa.net to volunteer at a site near you!

So Cal Horticultural Society presents: Ruth Borun Lecture Series

SUZANNE SIMARD - FINDING THE MOTHER TREE

The Southern California Horticultural Society is pleased to welcome Dr. Suzanne Simard as this year's speaker in the Ruth Borun Lecture Series. Scheduled as an online webinar for 2022.

Suzanne Simard is a Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia and the leader of The Mother Tree Project, which researches forest renewal practices that protect biodiversity against climate change. Dr. Simard's work has been published widely, with over 170 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, including *Nature*, *Ecology*, and *Global Biology*. She is also co-author of the book *Climate Change and Variability*. Her latest book, *Finding the Mother Tree*, brings us into the intimate world of trees, exploring the ways in which trees learn and adapt their behaviors, remember the past, demonstrate agency over the future, and cooperate with a sophistication typically ascribed to humans.



Photo by Diana Markosian
www.socalhort.org

Dr. Simard's research has been communicated broadly through TED Talks and TED Experiences, as well as articles and interviews in *The New Yorker*, *National Geographic*, *The Globe and Mail*, *NPR*, *CNN*, *CBC*, and many more. For more information on this speaker, please visit prhspeakers.com.

Event Schedule:

7:10pm SCHS Announcements

7:15pm Plant Forum

7:30pm Program begins

Registration is required to attend online: free for SCHS members with a \$5 fee for non-members. Attendance is limited to 200 viewers.

Dr. Simard's book, *Finding the Mother Tree* is available for purchase through PenguinRandomHouse.com.

Register online at www.socalhort.org

Questions? contact Laura at socalhort@gmail.com

Western Tree Management Symposium February 24, 2022 - on Zoom

Street Tree Seminar, your LA/OC Regional Forests Council, presents our Winter Western Tree Management Symposium for 2022

Pests & Diseases of So Cal Trees

Our Southern California urban forest is so vital. Let's get together and hear the latest on the pests and diseases that are affecting its vitality. We will take a 360 view with experts from the UC Extension as well as practitioners and professionals from multiple disciplines. Join us for a day of education and learning.



8:30 – 8:45
Welcome / Gathering

8:45 – 9:45
Common urban tree pests of Southern California
Christopher Arend, Consultant

9:45- 10:45
Managing GSOB at Lost Valley Scout Camp
Andrew Trotter, West Coast Arborists, Inc.
Donald Grossman, PhD., Arborjet

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 11:45
Pests of Sycamores
James Downer, PhD., University of California Cooperative Extension

11:45 – 12:45
Effective uses of Plant Growth Regulators
Will Harrison, Target Specialty Products

12:45 – 1:10 Mid-Day Break

1:10 – 2:00
Disneyland resort is a model system for integrated pest management
Akif Eskalen, PhD., Eskalen Labs

2:00 – 2:45
Major tree pests and how to deal with them (updates from Orange County)
Beatriz Nobua, PhD., University of California Cooperative Extension
John Kabashima, PhD., University of California Cooperative Extension (Emeritus)

2:45 – 3:30
Science in Action: LA County's efforts to respond to ISHB
Maximiliano Regis, Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture

3:30
Final Thoughts
Rachel Malarich, City of Los Angeles



THURSDAY
February 24, 2022
8:30AM – 3:30 PM

PRESENTED ONLINE
VIA ZOOM

\$50.00/member
\$75.00/nonmember

6.25 CEUs available
CTM, 4.25 Bm, 2.0 Bp
DPR APPLIED FOR



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TO REGISTER – VISIT
www.streettreeseminar.com



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Feb 24	Western Tree Management Symposium Pests and Disease of So Cal Trees	online
Mar 17	Discussion on SB9 led by Rachel Malarich	online
May 19	TBD - possible tree walk!	
TBD	Summer WTMS	
Aug 18	TBD	
Oct 21	Growing Grounds walk with Don Hodel	El Dorado Park Long Beach

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

INDUSTRY EVENTS

Save the Date
88th Annual Western Chapter ISA Conference and Trade Show
 May 2-5, 2022

Innovative Arboriculture: Experiencing the Urban Forest



Oakland Marriott City Center | 1001 Broadway | Oakland, CA



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".



EST. 1968
 California Urban
 Forests Council

**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".