



# STS NEWSLETTER

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

## STS 2020 Scholarship Awards

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

Congratulations to our 2020 Scholarship recipients. This year we held a virtual celebration on December 17th. Thanks to all the members who joined us.

This year we awarded three excellent candidates. Each recipient was asked to write an essay on the importance of street trees. Look for their essays in upcoming newsletters.

**Cameron Miller** is a student at Mt. San Antonio College with a course of study in Tree Care Maintenance and Landscape Design. He is a member of several professional groups, including the WCISA, SCA, SMA and UAA, and is also active in many community efforts, including serving as secretary on the board of the Dignity of Man Foundation and as Camp Organizer for the Ecosystem Restoration Camps Foundation. He is also involved with the Hollywood Orchard Fruit Picking Crew and the Soil Sponge Collective currently, and has given over 200 hours of volunteer service to the LA Public Library STAR Program.

Cameron has a bachelor's degree in theater, but was drawn to the green industry. His goal is to take everything he has learned and apply it towards being a certified arborist.

**Noemi Gorostiola-Vega** is a student at Mt. San Antonio College, with a course of study in Plant Science. Noemi is active in her community as a volunteer at Orange County Haven, helping to prepare animals for adoption. Noemi studied illustrating in her home country of Mexico, and pursued an opportunity in this field in Arizona. She worked as a landscaper while in school, but was forced to withdraw due to personal issues. She then moved to Southern California, where she began attending Mt SAC. Noemi would like to take the Plant Protection Science Program at Cal Poly Pomona.

**Gustavo Luken** is a student at Mt. San Antonio College with a course of study in Horticulture Science. He is active in his community as a longtime little league coach. Gustavo has earned several other scholarships in addition to ours, and has also earned the Mauget qualified tree injector certificate. Gustavo has always had a connection to plants and trees, and the decision to pursue an

education in Hort Science was an easy one. He would like to transfer to Cal Poly Pomona for his bachelor's in Plant Science, and hopes to someday work for the Department of Agriculture with the ultimate goal of owning his own farm and selling organic produce at affordable prices.

Thanks to Al Remyn and the committee for their continued work with the scholarship program as well as the faculty at our local colleges and universities.



**Great screenshot of our virtual celebration:** Pictured from top left: Gustavo Luken, John Conway (Scholarship committee member), Noemi Gorostiola Vega, Mt. SAC Professor Jennifer Hinostrroza, Cameron Miller, and Al Remyn (Scholarship Chair)

## SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

Street Tree Seminar would like to thank **Tree Pros, Inc.** and **West Coast Arborists, Inc.** for their generous donations to our Scholarship Fund, sponsoring the future of our industry. If you are interested in investing in the future of arboriculture in southern California - please let us know! Program information can be found on our website!



## Save LA Arboretum's Trees!

**Consortium wants to cut down L.A. County Arboretum trees to make room for storm water treatment, by Louis Sahagún**

*The following article originally appeared in the Los Angeles Times*

“Officials at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden are in an uproar over a plan to manage storm water and boost climate resiliency by cutting down "specimen trees" — some 70 years old and more than 100 feet tall — to make room for groundwater recharge ponds and a pump station.

The strategy was crafted by a consortium of five foothill cities and Los Angeles County Public Works. They believe a portion of the 127-acre paradise of flowering trees and shrubs in Arcadia, which draws more than 500,000 visitors each year, is conveniently located to capture, clean and store storm water pumped out of the nearby Arcadia Wash.

Construction of the facility that would consume up to 4 acres of the arboretum's Australia section could begin within a year or two, according to the group, which comprises the cities of Arcadia, Bradbury, Duarte, Monrovia and Sierra Madre, plus the county.

In the meantime, opponents led by executives of the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, a non-profit founded in 1947 to raise financial support for the botanic garden, are sounding the alarm.

“A project of this scale would require the sacrifice of up to hundreds of irreplaceable arboreal specimens — and we're not going to let that happen,” Richard Schulhof, chief executive of the foundation, said Friday. “The arboretum is not the right place for it.”

Tom Tompkins, 72, who lives near groves in the area targeted for grading

and construction, has joined forces in the campaign to stop what critics say would be the largest physical disturbance of arboretum grounds since it opened to the public in 1956.

**Call to Action! Los Angeles County Arboretum is facing a project that would force the removal of potentially hundreds of trees. To get involved, you can contact LA County Supervisor Katherine Barger**

[Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov)

**(213) 974-5555**

“This is a bad thing,” Tompkins said. “In addition to tearing down trees in order to put in an industrial wastewater treatment system, they would drive down the home values of those of us who moved here in the first place to be next to the beautiful arboreal park.”

Other opponents include Donald R. Hodel, an emeritus environmental horticulturist with the University of California Cooperative Extension, who described the proposed project as “a travesty.”

“It is a project that the arboretum does not want,” Hodel said, “and is more or less being forced upon the institution by outside municipalities and agencies.”



Curator Jim Henrich, left, and CEO Richard Schulhof walk in the Australia section of the Los Angeles County Arboretum. (Dania Maxwell / Los Angeles Times)

Alex Tachiki, an administrator for the city of Monrovia and leader of the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Water Quality Group, said such statements are premature.

“I know there are a lot of very passionate folks in the area,” Tachiki said. “But this project is still very early on in its development. The acreage

## LA Arboretum Call to Action

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needed and number of trees that may need removal have not been determined yet.”

In any case, he added, “the arboretum is a highly efficient location for this facility.”

The proposal aims to pump storm water into a series of ponds, where it would be filtered naturally through roots and soil before making its way down into aquifers. A small amount of the total storm water captured and cleaned each year would be diverted to the arboretum’s Baldwin Lake.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, whose district includes the arboretum, was not available for comment. But Rick Velasquez, Barger’s assistant chief deputy, said she is “keenly aware of the need to balance preservation at the arboretum with the concerns of the local community.”

“Our office is working to bring together all of the stakeholders involved,” he said, “including the arboretum, representatives from the surrounding cities and the county departments of Public Works and [Recreation and Parks].”

Schulhof says the proposal’s supporters miss the point, noting that as many as 425 trees from 29 plant families, 53 genera and 175 species are at stake. Among them are several critically endangered trees, as well as many that were grown from seeds donated over the decades by people including Samuel Ayres, who in 1947 found the site for

the botanic garden, at the request of the the Southern California Horticultural Society, at the old Lucky Baldwin Ranch, which was being subdivided for sale.

The arboretum’s grounds and trees have been under the care of skilled horticulturists for decades. Nodding appreciably toward a native coast live oak with a canopy 30 feet high and 60 feet across, Schulhof said, “Even a magnificent old giant like that one is sensitive to soil disturbance.”

Then there’s the consortium’s web page about the project, which refers to the arboretum’s Australia section as “underutilized.”

“That is absolutely not true,” Schulhof said, “and a cause for concern.”

*If you’d like more information contact the Arboretum’s Director Richard Schulhof via e-mail: [richard.schulhof@arboretum.org](mailto:richard.schulhof@arboretum.org) r opinion, please contact County Supervisor Kathryn Barger- [kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov)*

*To request a copy of Don Hodel’s position paper on **The Value of the Trees and Other Plants in the Footprint of the Proposed Natural Treatment Wetland and Groundwater Recharge Facility in the Australian Section of the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden**, email [heather@streettreeseminar.com](mailto:heather@streettreeseminar.com).*

## WTMS Winter February 25, 2021 - TREES IN CRISIS



8:45 am - 3:30 pm  
live streamed on Zoom

**J**oin Urban Forestry professionals in this day long dive into the effects of a pandemic on our urban and community forests. We will hear from experts and we will hear from each other. These are unique times. Our success depends as much on our reactions as actions. Let’s keep our Southern California canopy growing! Together we can create action to do just that.

Speakers Include: *Paul Johnson, Texas Forest Service, Dean Rodia, City of Rancho Cucamonga (retired), Kim Corella, CalFire, Igor Lacan, UCCE, Francisco Escobedo, LA Center for Urban Forest Research and Rachel Malarich, City of Los Angeles.*

**Sign up online @ [streettreeseminar.com](http://streettreeseminar.com)**



# MEETING SCHEDULE 2021

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<b>February 25</b>	<b>Winter WTMS</b>	<b>online</b>
<b>March 18</b>	<b>STS March General Meeting</b>	<b>online</b>
<b>May 20</b>	<b>STS May General Meeting</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>July 22</b>	<b>*Tentative* WTMS Summer</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Aug 20</b>	<b>STS August General Meeting</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Oct 21</b>	<b>STS October General Meeting</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Dec 16</b>	<b>STS Scholarship Awards/Officer Installation</b>	<b>TBD</b>

Interested in hosting a program in your community? We are interested in hearing from you!  
 Contact [heather@streettreeseminar.com](mailto: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](#)

<b>Feb 2</b>	<b>Hot and Dry: Cutting Edge Urban Forestry</b> www.caufc.org	<b>Online</b>
<b>Feb 2</b>	<b>Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance</b> www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org	<b>Online</b>
<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>Managing Risk for a Health SD UF</b> www.Sdrufc.com	<b>Online</b>
<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>A First Dive into the World of Fungi</b> www.wcisa.net	<b>Online</b>
<b>March 3</b>	<b>Using the 10th Edition of the Guide to Plant Appraisal</b> www.wcisa.net	<b>Online</b>

## 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".*