



STS NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

In keeping with local health and safety standards, we held our summer symposium on the zoom platform. STS Treasurer, Rachel Malarich from the City of Los Angeles, acted as our MC for the day.

The first speaker was Janet Hartin from the University of California Cooperative Extension with Trees for Tomorrow. She spoke on the benefits of trees and how to properly care for their future. She shared a variety of free downloads of great publications available from: <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu>

Janet provided the history and progress of the “Climate Ready Tree Study” which is a cooperative project between University of California Extension and US Forest Service. Key researchers include Dr. Alison Berry, Dr. Jim Downer, Janet Hartin, Darren Haver from UC and Dr. Greg McPherson, Dr. Natalie van Doorn, Erika Teach from USFS. The project includes measuring performance of select landscape tree species based on heat and drought resistance, CO₂ sequestration, soil tolerance, pest resistance, shade, biodi-

versity, rareness, longevity, etc.

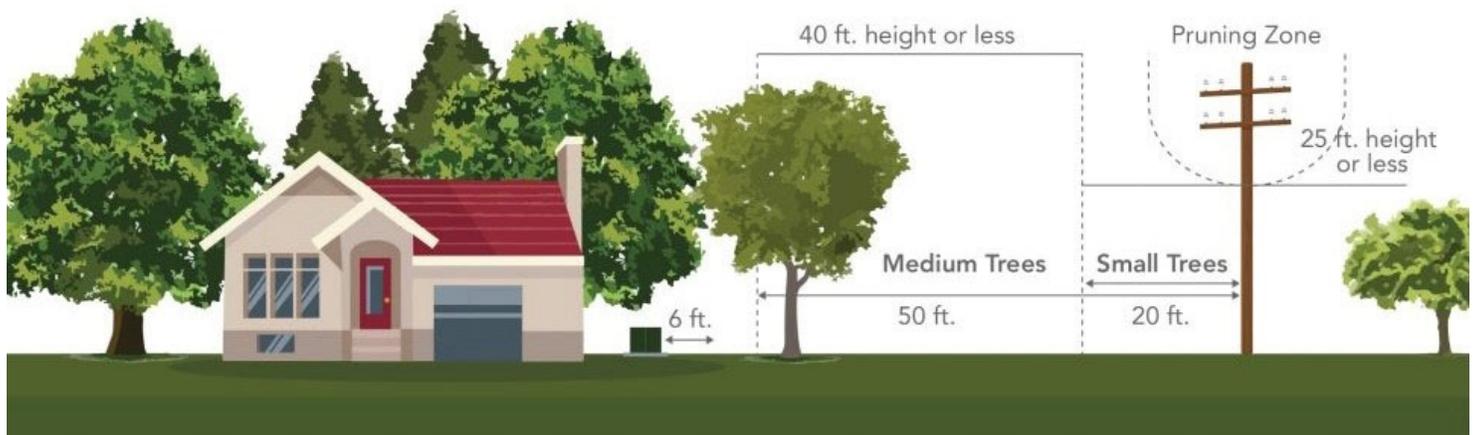
Janet shared the top performers so far in the study. Her powerpoint was filled with great links and resources and is available upon request.

Next came Rachel O’Leary from City Plants and Cristina Basurto with the Korean Youth and Community Center. This talk centered on their pilot Tree Ambassador Program, teaching homeowners to take care of their trees properly for the long term. The program is 9 months long with 10 total training sessions. The program is bilingual and hopes to strengthen the bonds between neighbors, champions and the land in the community. The pilot program launched in early July with 13 participants. They hope to learn and adapt the program to close the canopy gap and support urban greening in Los Angeles.

Our third speaker was Bob Perry, FASLA, with Perry and Associates Collaborative. Rachel introduced Bob Perry and his “Grounds for Success-” presentation.



Continued page 2



Summer Symposium Continued

Mr. Perry’s focus was on the science of plants and how to achieve a diverse urban forest. With Southern California becoming dryer and warmer, we need to manage water appropriately. We need to plan for the plant’s future!

Our second case study was presented by Dr. Yujuan Chen from TreePeople. Dr. Chen discussed the Healthy Soils for Healthy Communities Initiative. Launched in 2020 - it began with a needs assessment with a variety of stakeholders - the public was involved in a variety of surveys about soil and concerns. The interest level was very high. They have set up several demonstration projects where they look at soil from many aspects. TreePeople has developed a great LA Soil Toolkit that is available on their website.

After a short lunch break, Donald Hodel, UCCE Emeritus, spoke on irrigation of trees and water consumption by landscapes. Don is always a favorite. He gave a passionate presentation on climate change and water conservation challenging the attendees to advocate for keeping trees watered and green in the southland.

Don was followed by Dr. Larry Costello also retired from University of California Cooperative Extension. Larry’s talk, Caring for Young Trees, covered the proper care of young trees to grow healthy, mature trees with a focus on structural pruning. Larry shared a couple of observations; 1/ many (if not most) trees are not pruned when they’re young and 2/ many of those that are, are not pruned correctly. Larry explained the importance of structural pruning. Structural pruning of young trees reduces the potential for failure, reduces maintenance costs and can increase tree longevity. Larry also shared a resource for recycled water in landscapes - the guide can be found on the watereuse.org website.

Our third case study was presented by Aaron Thomas from North East Trees. Aaron shared the history of North East

Trees and introduced their “Watts Rising” project. It’s a multi-faceted grant with a holistic approach to improve the community and allow it to become more resilient. Urban greening program will be focused on tree planting - both public and private, fruit trees and community gardens. COVID has presented some challenges but all the projects moved forward with over 1000 trees planted and a residential tree program. This is phase 2 of a long term program.

Our final case study was presented by Jonathan Mason and Alex Lopez of, Los Angeles Conservation Corps.

LA Conservation Corps is the general contractor for LASAN’s grant from CNRA for the Boyle Heights Green Infrastructure (BHGI) project. BHGI will remove 12,600 sq ft of sidewalk concrete, for the installation of approximately 525 tree wells, and the planting of 1,400 street trees, which will be watered for the first two years by the LA Conservation Corps before entering into LA’s Urban Forestry Division maintenance routes.

Boyle Heights is designated as a disadvantaged and low-income community by CalEnviroScreen. BHGI work (concrete removal, planting, and maintenance) is headquartered at the LA Conservation Corps Boyle Heights site. Many of the Corps members who work at this site and who work on the BHGI project live in the area, so they are able to contribute positively to their own neighborhood.

During the day there were two break out sessions where attendees discussed programs in their communities - both the challenges and the successes. They shared out the key points to the larger group. The conference finished with Q & A and final thoughts from Rachel Malarich. There were so many great takeaways and all the presentations are available for download - please email info@streettreeseinar.com to get the link.

Thanks everyone for another successful if not unique program.

STS Board Accepting Nominations

Have you ever considered how you could make a difference in your community? Become part of the Street Tree Seminar leadership and find out just how easy it is when you join leaders in other communities. We’re looking for fresh faces and new viewpoints!

Past-president Emina Darakjy is now accepting nominations to serve on the 2022 Street Tree Seminar Board/ We Have 2 open directors positions. Please contact emina@earthlink.net with nominations. Ballots will be sent electronically in November.

President – Lucas Mitchell, City of Rancho Cucamonga

Past President - Emina Darakjy, member at large

Vice President - Rachel Malarich, City of Los Angeles

Treasurer - Dawn Fluharty, ArborJet

Secretary - Adrian Sanchez, City of Los Angeles

Director - Alex Lopez, Los Angeles Conservation Corps

Director – Open

Director – Open



Scholarship Essay— by Cameron Miller

Arborists and urban foresters have developed sophisticated models to calculate the value of street trees. Various metrics help us arrive at a dollar figure per tree, according to the amount they provide, or the cooling effect they bring up to the 'heat islands' of our urban landscapes. These quantitative factors are incredibly important for the significant task of convincing public officials and policy-makers that the value of the street trees we plant will far exceed the costs they incur.

As we approach the rainy season in Southern California, let us consider how trees benefit our public infrastructure, by reducing stormwater runoff otherwise destined for stormwater drains and sewers. Trees can absorb as much as the first 30% of precipitation through their leaf systems, meaning that the falling precipitation never even reaches the ground. In a landscape like Los Angeles, where as much as 80% of rainfall ends up following a route from compacted soils to non-permeable pavement, to sewer, to river, to ocean, this is hugely significant. Not only do trees absorb and then transpire that initial water back into the atmosphere, they also absorb as much as the next 30% of precipitation through their roots (Burden). As they accumulate organic matter in the soils where they're planted, soil structure improves, leading to greater water infiltration. We need this infiltration to begin recharging our groundwater and slowly move away from our codependence on water from the Colorado River and other diverted rivers, which are channeled to Los Angeles via aqueducts. Street trees are a multifunctional aid in this goal.

In addition to the many quantifiable factors by which we can describe the importance of street trees, there is another place that needs to be accounted for, which is harder to quantify but which underwrites every other demonstrable benefit: humans co-evolved with trees, and our interactions with trees shaped our history, our foodways, our settlements, and our very cultures. It is deeply hard-wired in us to live among trees, in mutually beneficial arrangements. We have been in these relationships with trees for much longer than we have lived in cities, and if we are to continue living in urban centers, we must make a space for trees, and continue participating in this human-arboreal relationship.

As we consider the role of street trees in our lives, we must consider the care they require in order to thrive. The stream of benefits they offer in our direction must be matched by the level of consideration and thoughtful maintenance that flows back to them. This needs to be mirrored in policy, in ample budgets for their ongoing needs, and in excellent research, education and practice of tree care.



Cameron Miller is a student at Mt. San Antonio College with a goal of Tree Care and Maintenance and Landscape Design Certificates. He is Board Secretary at the Dignity of Man Foundation, and is a member of the WCISA, SMA, SCA, UAA, and AREA. He is our third and final 2020 STS Scholarship Recipient.

STS 2021 Scholarship Program

Know a student deserves this scholarship? We are accepting applications from Southern California students currently studying Arboriculture, Horticulture or Plant Science fields. 2021 applications through November 1st. Go to www.streettreeseminar.com to apply.

What to help in a bigger way? Sponsor a scholarship this year! Donors will be recognized at our December luncheon when checks are presented to the students.

Contact Al Remyn (alremyn@aol.com) to invest in a student's future.

News from CaUFC



Connect with municipal arborists, urban forest managers, urban wood enthusiasts, landscape design professionals, planners, & non-profits from across California for this unique event. Be immersed in this unique educational & networking experience. Join the virtual sessions to gain insights, strategies, and inspiration.

Keynote speaker Dr. Matt Ritter talks about underutilized species for the future of urban wood and the urban forest. Then, catch our interview with Richard Louv on shifting the climate narrative. Plus a panel discussion on urban wood policy, lightning rounds, virtual tours & much more.

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

8.00 AM — 3.30 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

9.00 AM — 12 NOON

See caufc.org for full schedule and to register for the event.



URBAN WOOD
NETWORK™





MEETING SCHEDULE 2021/22

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Oct 21	STS– Palm Pests w/ Ricardo Aguilar	online
Dec 16	STS Scholarship Awards/Officer Installation	TBD
TBD	Winter WTMS - Pests	TBD
Mar 17	TBD	
May 19	TBD	
TBD	Summer WTMS	
Aug 18	TBD	

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

INDUSTRY EVENTS

Sept 30-Oct 1	Desert Green Annual Conference www.desert-green.org	Las Vegas, NV
October 6	Cavity Nesting Wildlife Webinar www.wcisa.net	online
October 14-15	CaUFC Annual Conference - Trees/Wood www.caufc.org	online
October 21	El cambio climático - Climate Change - Offered in Spanish www.wcisa.net	online
October 27	IUFC - Managing Risk to Promote a Safe and Healthy Urban Forest www.inlandurbanforestcouncil.org	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”.