



STS NEWSLETTER

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

STS December Meeting Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients

December's meeting was held at Kellogg West in Pomona. Each December we gather to celebrate the scholarship recipients, thank our outgoing board and welcome the board for the coming year.

Scholarship Chair Al Remyn and committee member John Conway presented the awards for our two 2019 scholarship recipients. Congratulations to **Melanie Ward and Yi Li**, who you can read about below. As part of the scholarship process, applicants submit an essay on the importance of street trees. Melanie's essay is on page 6. Look for Yi's essay in an upcoming newsletter later this year.

Melanie Ward is currently attending Mt. San Antonio College with a course of study in Ornamental Horticulture. She is currently a Level 4 student assistant and an intern at Gonzalez Nursery in Monrovia. She is also active in school and the community— she is Vice President of the Horticulture Club, winner of the 2019 Herman Weskamp Achievement Award, member of the Los Angeles Fern Society, and volunteered for Mt. SAC's Hort Unit for 4 months before employment. Melanie had recommendations from two professors, with Jennifer Hinostrroza stating

that Melanie is "Dedicated and enthusiastic" and that she "has a passion for sustainability in horticulture", and Brian Scott stating she "always brings a smile, outstanding attitude, and witty personality to class activities".

Yi Li is currently attending Mt. San Antonio College with a course of study in Horticultural Science, Landscape Design, Irrigation Management and Plants. Yi is brand new to Mt. SAC, having previously attended East LA College, where she was on the Dean's List, and Cal State Polytechnic University at Pomona. She is currently working at the Huntington Library in San Marino, and volunteered for both the Cal Poly Landscape Club and the Mt. SAC Horticulture Club. Yi's recommendation came from her professor Jennifer Hinostrroza, who stated, " Yi is ambitious and hard-

working. It is very clean that she wants to pair her landscape architecture background with her horticultural knowledge so that she can make thoughtful, functional, and permanent contributions to the landscape industry".

Congratulations to them both and we hope to see more of them at future events in the industry!



Al Remyn, John Conway, Jennifer Hinostrroza, Melanie Ward and Yi Li

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NOTES FROM DECEMBER MEETING

Our December 2019 meeting was held at Kellogg West on the Cal Poly Pomona Campus

Past Presidents in attendance were: Ann Hope, Rose Epperson, Al Remyn, Alan Hudak, Paul Webb and John Conway

Raffle Donors: Image Pest Control, Rachel Malarich– City of LA, Tree Pros, Alan Hudak, Epicenter Management, Lucas Mitchell, Emina Darakjy

Raffle Winners: Alan Hudak, Paul Webb, Rose Epperson, John Conway, George Olekszak, Melanie Ward, Adrian Sanchez, Lorna Remyn

Next Meeting:

Tools of the Trade

THURSDAY

March 19, 2020

10:30AM

**Cal Poly Pomona Agriscapes Visitor Center
4102 South University Dr.
Pomona, CA 91768**

Visit our website for more information <http://www.streettreeseminar.com> - online registration is available.

DECEMBER MEETING continued from pg 1

After lunch, Emina Darakjy, outgoing President, thanked her board for their service and we welcomed our new 2020 Board of Directors, to be installed at WTMS in February.

2020 Board of Directors

President

George Olekszak

Past-President

Emina Darakjy

Vice-President

Lucas Mitchell

Secretary

Adrian Sanchez

Treasurer

Rachel Malarich

Directors

Ashlyn Pouvaranukoah

Alex Lopez

Dawn Fluharty



Outgoing 2019 Board of Directors: Emina Darakjy, Lucas Mitchell, Rachel Malarich, Adrian Sanchez, Ted Lubeshkoff, George Olekszak, Ann Hope

Save
the
Date

LEAD WITH TREES

CALIFORNIA URBAN + COMMUNITY FORESTS CONFERENCE

MAY 12-14, 2020
SACRAMENTO, CA

CALIFORNIA ReLEAF
CaUFC

WINTER WTMS - Speaker Takeaways

We had a great day with a full house in the Ahmanson Theatre at The Huntington Library and Gardens on February 13th discussing **Trees and Infrastructure**. We were fortunate to have industry leaders from all over the globe join us this year. Each of our presenters left us with some great takeaways from their talks.

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Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management
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Phytophthora - how to handle a biological bulldozer

- Give the trees the best possible growing conditions.
- Diversify – species, genus and family and monitor existing trees.
- Listen to the maintenance staff.
- Use healthy plant material by collaborating with nurseries.
- Collaborate with researchers.

Pruning to Harm Trees!

- A new certification has been developed in Europe. The certification is called VETCert and is valid for Veteran Trees, and arborist can certify as climbing or consultant
- The use of unconventional pruning techniques could be used to preserve trees with high biological or historical values
- Veteranisation is the most extreme way of "pruning" where trees are intentionally harmed to create higher biodiversity.
- The tradition to pruned away dead branches, that isn't posing a risk, should be questioned since its not beneficial for the trees and reduces the biological values
- Arborist and tree managers needs to think about biological values since, many times, urban trees have higher biological values than production forests that are becoming more and more common.



Outstanding Speakers joined us— Dr. Johan Östberg, Dr. Richard Hauer, and Mr. Scott Altenhoff

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Trees versus Sidewalks, who wins?

We professional arborists and urban foresters:

- often focus so much on technical details/problems that we lose sight of the real “root causes” of hard-scape/tree conflicts (people and policies)
- need to remember that prevention is so much better/less expensive than cure
- need to remember that sustainable urban forests are comprised of three equally important components: healthy tree and forest resource 2) community-wide support 3) comprehensive management approach. As Jim Clark and Nelda Matheny pointed out in 1997:

WINTER WTMS - Speaker Takeaways - cont'd from page 3

“The most significant outcome of a sustainable urban forest is to maintain a maximum level of net environmental, social, and economic benefits over time.”

Without safe and usable hardscapes it's hard to maximize the social and economic benefits that we seek from our urban forests aren't just working on or with trees, we're dealing with “complex social-ecological systems”; this means we need to understand how “wicked problems” differ from “benign problems”

- shouldn't let the Ideal be an enemy of the Good – we need to feel empowered to experiment (based on sound judgement and good science) and then learn from, and share the results of, our experiments. This is the essence of adaptive management.
- need to do a better job of creating “win-win” scenarios and avoiding “zero-sum games” (as Rich Hauer pointed out, “what good is having your cake if you can't eat it too?”) – if we plan and manage our urban forests well we can have it all: big, old street trees, user-friendly sidewalks/hardscapes, and happy/healthy people.

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Trees and Construction

- With trees and construction know the X-factors which can vary by situation and tree species.
- In general, avoid indiscriminate construction and root

damage within 5X of the tree diameter unless methods are taken to avoid root damage.

- Depending on tree species, avoiding construction within 6 to 18X of the tree diameter is best practice.
- Develop procedures and enforcement approaches, communicate the trees and construction plan before development plans are finalized.
- Incorporate applicable ANSI A300 specifications and Best Management Practices into development plans.
- For more information: Hauer, R., A. Koeser, S. Parbs, J. Kringer, R. Krouse, K. Ottman, R. Miller, D. Sivyer, N. Timilsina, L. Werner. 2020. Effects of a Tree Preservation Program on Tree Survival, Condition, and Growth in Milwaukee, WI, USA. Landscape & Urban Planning. Volume 193, January 2020, 103670

Avoiding the Costly Mistakes of Inadequate Tree Maintenance

- Start young with the development of tree canopies as bad tree habits are best pruned before trees mature into adulthood.
- Watering trees during establishment is less expensive than replacing dead trees.
- Plant trees with the top of the structural roots at the surface of the soil, aka don't bury tree stems into the ground as bad things often happen.
- Correct root defects at planting to ensure roots grow away from the stem.
- It often takes 1 to 2 decades for net returns of trees to occur and major problems of improper planting,



Reach your Highest Peak
 86th Annual Conference & Tradeshow
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 Resort at Squaw Creek
 Olympic Valley, CA

WESTERN CHAPTER
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 OF ARBORICULTURE

WINTER WTMS - Speaker Takeaways - cont'd from page 4

tree establishment, and young tree maintenance often take 1 to 2 decades to result in dead and declining trees.

- For more information: (1) Hauer R.J., J.M. Vogt and B.C. Fischer. 2015. What is the Cost of Not Maintaining the Urban Forest. *Arborist News* 24(1):12–1 or (2) Vogt J.M., Hauer R.J., Fischer B.C. 2015. The Costs of Maintaining and Not Maintaining the Urban Forest: A Review of The Urban Forestry and Arboriculture Literature. *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry*. 41(6):293–323

Plant ID Challenge

Congratulations to Alison Lancaster - our plant id champion for 2020! Alison will attend for FREE next year!

Grand Prize Raffle Winner

Another round of congratulations to Melissa Rodriguez our grand prize winner.

Thank you to our exhibitors; ArborJet, Davey, RPW Services, Inc., Tree-Pros, Tree Care for Birds & Wildlife and Western Chapt ISA. These companies support the educational programming of Street Tree Seminar each year. We greatly appreciate them.

See you all at Kellogg West in Pomona on July 23, 2020 for our Summer Symposium.



STS President George Olekszak and Melissa Rodriguez



Your STS 2020 Board of Directors, from Left: President George Olekszak, VP Lucas Mitchell, Secretary Adrian Sanchez, Past-President Emina Darakjy, Director Ashlyn Pouvaranukoah, Director Dawn Fluharty, Treasurer Rachel Malarich. Not present: Director Alex Lopez

THE IMPORTANCE OF STREET TREES-

By Melanie Ward

Have you ever stared up into an enormous Oak tree canopy and wondered “How did you get this big?” As the branches bifurcate into different directions you think, “Did the wind shape you? Was it the sunshine?” Sometimes if you look long enough you can follow one branch to another all the way back to it’s wide trunk and truly be humbled by the majestic presence it has over you as you sit on your favorite bench during lunchbreak. You think of all the squirrel families it must have sheltered, all the birds who have nested and fledged from it, all the shade and tranquility it provides you as you take some time for yourself away from the stress of a ringing telephone or unanswered emails. Most of all you are grateful for its presence but mostly unaware of the person who planted it, and the people maintaining and protecting it.

This is a common dilemma for trees in your parks, streets and yards. Most people know they like them, they provide indication of one season changing into another, that they would rather park under one, and that mature trees can increase their property value. But most people don’t take the time to consider how incredibly important an urban tree canopy is to their community. In fact, tree-lined streets provide for a better walking experience which in turn results in more people outside, getting to know their neighbors or improving their health with exercise. Motorists slow down when they see families strolling or bicycling, and moods are improved when hearing birds singing and breathing fresh air. Trees are also actively helping us in ways we might not always notice. Trees can absorb the first 30% of precipitation, easing drainage infrastructure and rainwater waste. They provide wind screens and reduce the heat island effect when asphalt can increase the temperature by 3-7%. Shade over asphalt also increases its longevity by 40-60%, reducing city maintenance costs. Trees can create a buffer from traffic noise pollution by the rustling of leaves and birdsong. They provide a filter from engine exhaust and provide sweet fragrance from their flowers for our yards.

So, why isn’t every street lined with beautiful, life improving, heat and pollution reducing, glorious trees? They soon will be. Massive efforts by landscape architects, urban planners, developers, and numerous greening programs and non-profit organizations are heeding the call to provide trees to areas with low or no canopy. The youth of the nation is heavily invested in the future of the climate and the health of our planet and they are working hard to support ‘plant a tree’ initiatives. Technology is also a key player in mapping out and categorizing tree species and tree health. As more of our common street trees are fading away from pests and disease, new trees will be needed to replace them. This is where you come in. Find a tree you like, get it for free, then plant it. It’s that easy. For more information on which trees are best for your city streets or yard, contact your city’s public works department or visit sites such as The Nature Conservation, CityPlants, Treepedia, National Arbor Day Foundation, US Forest Service or Street Tree Seminar, Inc.

Imagine how green this world would be again if everyone planted a tree. Maybe the next time you enjoy your lunch under a beautiful tree it will be because of you.



Scholarship Recipient Melanie Ward with John Conway and Al Remyn



MEETING SCHEDULE 2020

Remember to email chango369@hotmail.com with your reservation

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March 19	Tools of the Trade Cal Poly Agriscapes Visitor Center	Pomona, CA
May 21	TBD	TBD
July 23	WTMS Summer Program	Kellogg West Pomona, CA
August 20	TBD Cal Poly Agriscapes Visitor Center	Pomona, CA
October 22	TBD	TBD
December 17	Scholarship/Officer Installation Kellogg West @ Cal Poly Pomona	Pomona, CA

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

INDUSTRY EVENTS

TREASURER
Rachel Malarich
City of Los Angeles
213/365-7400

DIRECTORS
Dawn Fluharty
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99 Blueberry Hill Rd
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2473 E Orangethorpe
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Alex Lopez
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March 13, 2020	Chipper Safety Course www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org	Lakeside, CA
March 31, 2020	TRAQ Renewal Course www.wcisa.net	Jurupa Valley, CA
April 3, 2020	ASTI- Aerial Lift Specialist Course www.wcisa.net	Ontario, CA
April 25, 2020	Cool Parks Arbor Day Planting Christi@wcisa.net	Hawaiian Gardens, CA Placentia, CA
April 27-30, 2020	WCISA Annual Conference www.Wcisaconnect.com	Olympic Valley, 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".



**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".

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