



# STS NEWSLETTER

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

## Southeast Trees at El Dorado Regional Park, Long Beach, California October 27, 2022 - presented and recapped by Donald R. Hodel

October's meeting was held in Long Beach at El Dorado Regional Park with speaker Don Hodel and guest speakers Cris and Raquel Falco. Following is Don's recap of the day.

A multi-site tree planting and evaluation project in southeast Los Angeles County and adjacent Orange County, my Southeast Trees project at El Dorado Regional Park in Long Beach will be seven years old on December 1. The project at El Dorado is the original site and one of six total where I and cooperating personnel have planted more than 250, mostly unusual and rare trees that I have propagated and grown on. Two other sites are in Cerritos, two in Lakewood, and one in Seal Beach. The purpose of Southeast Trees is to evaluate the growth of unusual tree species for that and similar areas.

At El Dorado Regional Park, we have planted over 150 trees representing 130 species. Some of my favorites are *Bombax ceiba*, a floss silk tree relative with large, handsome, reddish flowers; *Caesalpinia ferrea*, with yellow flowers and attractively mottled

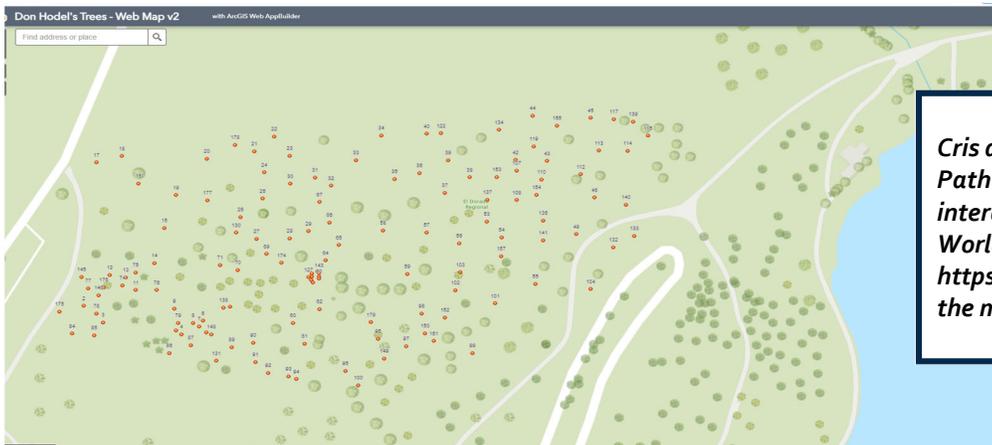


The planting crew and *Bombax ceiba* at the first planting of the Southeast Trees project, El Dorado Regional Park, Long Beach, CA, December 1, 2015.

bark; *Cassia brewsteri*, with pendulous tresses of showy, bright yellow flowers; *Fraxinus malacophylla*, with white, deliciously fragrant flowers and mottled bark; *Olmediella betschleriana*, a dioecious species noted for its large, baseball-size, rounded, green fruits; *Pseudobombax ellipticum*, another floss silk tree relative with white, shaving-brush-like flowers; and a fruitless variant of *Tecoma stans* that produces showy yellow flowers nearly year round.

I am enamored with the genus *Ficus*, and have planted over 30 species of this genus, including among my favorites *F. abutilifolia*, *F. bubu*, *F. cordata*, *F. insipida*, *F. lutea*, *F. macrophylla*, *F. natalensis*, *F. racemosa*, *F. religiosa*, *F. sur.*, *F. sycomorus*, and *F. trichopoda*.

For more information on Southeast trees and, in particular, its activity at El Dorado, visit my e-journal PalmArbor <https://ucanr.edu/sites/HodelPalmsTrees/PalmArbor/> and click on the years 2020 and 2021 for a series of articles detailing and illustrating the Southeast Trees project.



Cris and Raquel Falco from Tree Path Consulting created and interactive "tree map" of Don's World of Trees - visit their website <https://treepath.com/> to access the map

Great Trees of the LA/OC - Emina Darakjy  
*New Zealand Christmas Tree*

***Metrosideros excelsa***

Commonly known as the New Zealand Christmas Tree

Family: Myrtaceae (Myrtle)

Origin: Coastal New Zealand and Australia

The *Metrosideros excelsa* is an evergreen tree with a rounded dense crown reaching a height of 35 feet with an equal spread. The tree can be grown as a multi-trunk or single trunk, does well in full sun but can tolerate light shade.

Down under in New Zealand this tree is called Pohutukawa, and blooms during their summer months which are November to January with a peak blooming cycle around Christmas time thus its common name.

The trunk starts smooth becoming rough and fissured with a grayish-brown bark.

The leaves are oval and are a beautiful glossy shade of gray/green.

Flowers start as white buds before opening to a very showy crimson red with thin long stamens re-

sembling the flowers of a bottlebrush tree attracting birds and bees.

This tree is smog and drought tolerant, adapts to any soil conditions, tolerates the salty coastal mist making it a good candidate for coastal plantings.

The tree is considered pest free but can be susceptible to Phytophthora and Root Rot, its aggressive roots can cause sidewalk damage.

Another noticeable feature of this tree is its aerial roots which hang down from its branches. If left alone, they can touch the ground and take root forming extra trunks.

This is a beautiful tree especially when in bloom, makes a great accent in a garden, median or as a street tree, and is safe to plant in areas where deer

are present. It is also on Southern California Edison's list of recommended trees to plant under powerlines.



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

October 27 meeting recap, Continued



Don's Arborist friends, Ken Greby and Cris & Raquel Falco led planting groups



City of Long Beach has been a long time supporter of the project



STS President, Lucas Mitchell, soaking up all Don's sage knowledge



During lunch, STS Executive Director, Rose Epperson, presented Don with his 2021 Green Industry Hall of Fame Plaque. Don was inducted last fall in recognition of his years of service to Los Angeles County.



Attendees followed Don around the grounds enthralled in his stories of the trees, their origin and their care.



One of Don's "tree-age" trees - rescued from the trash pile and planted as part of the "World of Trees" garden

## CAL FIRE Releases 2022/23 Grant Guidelines



**CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Grant Program** has just released the 2022/2023 UCF Grant Guidelines, which are now open for public comment. Comments will be accepted until **January 13, 2023**. Please help the UCF Program improve its efforts and share your constructive comments and feedback. Your responses will remain anonymous.



We strongly encourage you to review the grant guidelines and provide public comments or ask questions. You can also review submitted comments and see CAL FIRE staff responses.

### 2022/2023 Grant Types:

- Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement
- Urban Forest Management Activities
- Urban Forestry Education and Workforce Development
- Urban Forestry Regional or Statewide Impact
- Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization
- Regional or Statewide Education and Outreach

For questions that are project specific or related to eligibility, please attend our webinars and speak with CAL FIRE staff. Webinar dates will be announced soon.

**REMINDER: Green Schoolyards Grant Guidelines also available for public comment until January 13, 2023!**



## STS at the Landscape Expo

*Street Tree Seminar's Past Presidents Emina Darakjy and Alan Hudak, along with Epicenter Management's Ryan Pendleton, represented us at the 2022 Anaheim Landscape Expo on November 16 and 17. It's always good to get out and network, meet new people, and of course, show off our book!*





Meeting Schedule 2023

**PRESIDENT**  
 Lucas Mitchell  
 City of Rancho Cucamonga  
 8794 Lion Street  
 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
 909/477-2730

<b>February 16</b>	<b>Winter WTMS</b>	<b>SoFi Stadium Inglewood, CA</b>
<b>March 16</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>May 18</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>TBD</b>

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
 Emina Darakij  
 1044 Prospect Blvd  
 Pasadena, CA 91103  
 626/792-0586

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

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
 Rachel Malarich  
 City of Los Angeles  
 1149 S. Broadway  
 Los Angeles, CA 90015  
 213/365-7400

Industry Events

**SECRETARY**  
 OPEN

<b>Jan 13</b>	<b>Western Tree Failure Database Meeting</b> <i>www.wcisa.net - Dominican University, San Rafael, CA</i>
<b>Jan 14</b>	<b>PTCA 14th Annual Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop</b> <i>Ptcaosd.wildapricot.org- Stein Family Farm, National City, CA</i>
<b>Jan 23</b>	<b>WCISA- Structural Pruning Encinitas</b> <i>Wwww.wcisa.net- San Diego Botanic Garden, Encinitas, CA</i>
<b>Jan 24</b>	<b>WCISA- Structural Pruning Los Angeles</b> <i>Wwww.wcisa.net- Griffith Park, Los Angeles, CA</i>

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 Anaheim, CA 92806  
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**MEMBERSHIP**  
 Rachel Malarich  
 213/365-7400

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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