



# STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council  
P.O. Box 6415  
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STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC. - Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

# STS Newsletter

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## Highlights of the City of San Dimas, A Small Community Focus

By Robert Sartain, Secretary

Our October general meeting was held at the Walker House in San Dimas with the main program discussing "The Highlights of the City of San Dimas, A Small Community Focus." John Conway introduced Deborah Day, the Municipal Arborist for San Dimas, who gave a presentation on the urban forestry program of the City. To begin with Deborah was very thankful for the number of volunteers who help her on tree plantings and other projects. The City of San Dimas is approximately 17 square miles with a population of about 35,000 people. San Dimas retains a western heritage and was the site of one of the largest citrus packing houses in California.

Tree City USA has been awarded to San Dimas since 2006 when they adopted its local tree ordinance. The ordinance is one of the four requirements to be a Tree City USA, the others being an annual Arbor Day, a minimum budget of \$2.00 per capita and a tree board or department. In 2006 the city completed its Community Forest Management Plan which details the management of its over 10,000 community trees. One of the guidelines of the urban forestry program is not to be punitive on a regular basis in relation to fines, but to perform public outreach and community education on the benefits of trees. The intent is to educate the public on the importance of trees to their home, street and community. But the protective tree ordinance is their just in case they need it for extreme cases.

In modern times Deborah works with volunteers on many projects. One example was the mulching project in Sycamore Canyon on 50 mitigation trees along the walking trail. The volunteers are given the name of "Ranch Hands," AKA "A Shady Bunch of Tree Planters." During a tree planting project sponsored by an AQMD grant, Deborah organized the planting of 100 trees at a local school and park. Many of the volunteers were local Boy Scouts who help on the plantings. All of the trees planted during the grant were California natives like Blue Oak, Torrey Pine and Engelmann oak. Additionally Deborah applies for State funded Cal-Fire Urban Forestry Grants to help with her tree maintenance program

Some of the historic and significant trees of San Dimas include the largest recognized specimen and National Champion, Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) which has a diameter of 42 inches and a height of over 100 feet. This tree was planted in front of the Walker House located on San Dimas Boulevard in the 1880's and is over 130 years old. Other significant trees of San Dimas include native California Coast Live Oaks, where many of them line the main boulevards of town. Some of the older and larger oak specimens have fallen during past storms. Currently the City is working with residents who have old

The city also participated in "United Voices for Healthier Communities," which is a state wide program to plant trees. During their participation they helped plant 450 new trees for the program and the city. Deborah also plants Butterfly Gardens with local school children to help them connect with nature.



Arbor Day is celebrated in conjunction with local schools where they arrange tree plantings with the school district. It has been noticed that after the tree plantings at local schools, that there has been less vandalism throughout the city and especially at schools. The next scheduled Arbor Day in 2012 will be a regional celebration with nearby and surrounding cities and agencies. Part of the Arbor Day celebration includes a Poetry Contest about trees with local grade school students. The contest winners are recognized at the annual Arbor Day celebration.

oaks planted in parkways to educate them on the proper watering for an oak and to reduce the turf area near the main trunk. The goal is to reduce stress on the trees and decrease the possibility of root rot fungus. The outreach is done through personal contact, letters and door hangers given to residents with oak trees.

Some of the public outreach efforts include pamphlets for the "Downtown San Dimas Tree Trek." This pamphlet was created with the support of a Cal Fire Urban Forestry Grant for public outreach and education. The pamphlet is a map and description of the prominent trees of the downtown area. The Tree Trek is over a mile long and educates the community on the specimen trees in their area. Some are large native specimens like

(Continued on page 3)

### NEXT MEETING:

**Thursday, December 15, 2011  
Kellogg West - Pomona, CA**

Annual Scholarship Awards  
Hosted by Street Tree Seminar, Inc.

## 2011/12 MEETING SCHEDULE

December 15th	Annual Scholarship Awards Hosted by STS	Kellogg West 3801 W. Temple Avenue, Pomona
2012 January 13th	Western Tree Management Symposium <b>It Takes A Team to Manage our Urban Forest</b> **Note - different venue!!!	The Huntington Library & Gardens 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

### MISSION STATEMENT

"To promote the advancement of urban forestry and provide a forum for tree care professionals to share their experiences, knowledge, and expertise for the benefit of the membership and the enhancement of Southern California's community forests."

### VISION STATEMENT

"To enhance the health and beauty of Southern California cities by improving the quality of our community forests."

Remember to email Robert Sartain @ [RSartain@santa-clarita.com](mailto:RSartain@santa-clarita.com) with your reservation

NEXT MEETING!

Join us for our next meeting on

**December 15, 2011**

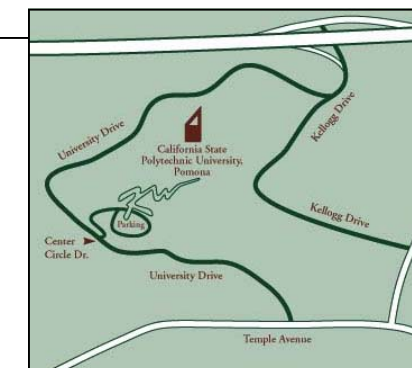
**STS Scholarship Program and Officer Installation**

#### LOCATION:

KELLOGG WEST CONFERENCE CENTER  
3801 W. TEMPLE AVE - HILLSIDE EAST ROOM  
POMONA, CA 91768-2557

**TIME:** 10:30 AM

**COST:** HOSTED BY STREET TREE SEMINAR!



Business Meeting - October 20, 2011

Street Tree Seminar President, Wayne Smith, called the meeting to order and lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by self introductions. Past Presidents attending the meeting were Rose Epperson, Kevin Holman, Alan Hudak and Dan Jensen.

Dan Jensen reported that the Scholarship Committee would be accepting applications for 2011 Scholarship Awards through November 3, 2011.

The Nominations Committee presented the following Slate of Officers for 2012 - an electronic election followed to get the approval of the members,

- President - John Conway
Past President - Wayne Smith
Vice President Robert Sartain
Secretary - Christy Cuba
Treasurer - Dan Jensen

Directors - Fred Roth, Emina Darakjy & Jon Baker

The meeting ended with our traditional raffle. Thanks to John Conway, Robert Sartain, Wayne Smith, Christy Cuba, Rose Epperson, Emina Darakjy, Kevin Holman, Mauget, Fred Roth and WCA for their generous donations.

And congratulations to the winners - Alan Hudak, Heather Crippen, Wayne Smith, Dan Jensen, Kevin Holman, Sylva Blackstone, Emina Darakjy, Robert Sartain, Fred Roth, Deb Day, and Janell and Suzy from San Dimas.

Our final meeting for 2011 will be held on December 15, 2011 at Kellogg West. It's always a treat to go out to Cal Poly Pomona. Make sure to let Robert Sartain know you are coming - and don't forget to bring a guest!

Happy Holidays from Street Tree Seminar!

Saying goodbye to an old friend



Scott Wilson, founder of North East Trees was 89

In 1989, retired LAUSD high school teacher and landscape architect Scott Wilson created North East Trees with a pledge to plant five trees a day for the rest of his life. Helping at-risk Los Angeles youth find jobs was another

piece of the plan. In the group's first 20 years, North East Trees' website says, it planted over 50,000 trees, designed and built over 35 mini-parks, trails, street and access gateway improvements, implemented habitat restoration along the Los Angeles River and elsewhere in the county, and "engaged, trained, and employed hundreds of local youth in environmental stewardship." Street Tree Seminar board member, Emina Darakjy remembers Scott as a pioneer who did so much to promote the cause of trees and open space. A wonderful and kind man.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to North East Trees, 570 W. Ave. 26, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90065, (323) 441-8634. Donations may also be made on their website: northeasttrees.org.

Kevin Roderick • November 7 2011 11:46 PM



Street Tree Seminar, Inc. presents:



It Takes A Team To Manage Our Urban Forest

January 13, 2012

Friends Hall
The Huntington Library & Gardens

1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA

Look for the flyer in your mailbox December 1, 2011



Highlights from San Dimas, continued

Redwood, California Sycamore and California oaks including Valley Oak, and Black Oak. Others include introduced species like Deodar Cedar, Camphor, Eucalyptus, Aleppo Pine and Citrus groves.

Other publications that were created from the Cal Fire Grant included a brochure explaining the urban forestry program which was mailed to every resident in the City. Another educational program created by Deborah Day was a host of tree classes for the public. The six educational classes included; Trees 101, Young Tree Care and Pruning, Mature Trees, Fruit Trees, Hazardous Trees, and Tree Selection and Installation. The two hour Saturday classes began in early April and were held every other weekend till the middle of June. Alternating every other class were activities for children that followed the regular training class. The program was geared toward adults, contractors, children and students. There final phase of classes was a series of educational walks to appreciate the trees of San Dimas, one being the Tree Trek and another being a hike through Sycamore Canyon.

The City of San Dimas has a tree population of approximately 10,000 trees which are maintained by West Coast Arborists on a four-year pruning cycle, or about 2,500 trees per year. The pruning is not done on a year round basis, but instead is performed at key times throughout the year, with most of the trees trimmed in fall and winter. The overall tree work takes about 4 months. During the past six years the City has planted 2,000 trees to bring the tree population to its current total of 10,000 trees. The budget is sufficient to perform the needed work to maintain the city trees. Currently there is \$200,000 for general maintenance such as pruning, removals and emergency work and another \$10,000 for new tree plantings.

In general Deborah does not trim out of schedule as it costs more for the contract work. Most of the scheduled tree trimming is performed by WCA and incidental tree issues are handled by the City Landscape Maintenance Crew. The third option is for the resident to pull a pruning permit to perform the tree work to city standards. The resident is required to hire an approved contractor to perform the desired work. There is a set pruning schedule for the City and it is broken into grid zones for the affected four-year trim cycle. The pruning schedule is posted on the City web page for residents to refer to. Some of the new trees are replacing old Carob trees that have failed throughout the years. Many of these older Carob trees have internal rot and cavities that lead to limb and or complete tree failure. Other trees that meet the replacement program are selectively removed over several years and replaced with new species. Other programs include reforestation projects in conjunction with curb and sidewalk renovation. Many of the trees that are adjacent to displaced hardscape have redesigned sidewalks to reduce the need for major root pruning. Some of the replacement sidewalk installation techniques include meandering, ramping and widening of the parkway strip. Trees are root pruned when possible and removed when absolutely necessary.

Some of the City trees were planted in reverse parkways and residents are unclear if a tree belongs to them or the City. In these instances, the City will inspect the tree and inform the resident if the tree belongs to the City. Also the City will not require a resident to accept a tree in their front yard, instead they will petition and try to educate and persuade them to see the benefits of a City tree. Each year the City will send letters to selected streets that they intend to replant or start a reforestation project. The reforestation projects remove declining Carob and Arizona Ash trees and replaces them with newer tree varieties. In general the City will replant with 15-gallon size trees and occasionally with 24-inch box sized trees.

One of the key projects in the recent years was the renovation of the Walker House, which the City purchased in 2000. The Walker House was built in the Victorian style of architecture during the 1880,s and was originally a railroad hotel for land speculators hoping to build in the Southern California area. The San Dimas Historical Society has docent led tours on the first Sunday of each month. These tours focus on the pioneer days of San Dimas and the rich Citrus industry that eventually grew in the surrounding area. Many of the rooms are filled with artifacts and photographs from the early citrus production days, including old crate labels and pesticide treatments for the time. Much of the wood that built the Walker House was California Redwood. The wood was easily available in the early 1880's and was considered a great building material for its many benefits like being lightweight, rot resistance, and sound absorbing qualities. The redwood was floated down the Pacific and picked up in San Pedro. Then hauled up by wagon to San Dimas where they were brought to a nearby sawmill which cut the logs into building materials. Some of the rain gutters are still original redwood.

Both Pine and Redwood were floated as logs along California rivers to the San Dimas area.

The general meeting was finished with a tour of the Walker House by Docent Susan Davis and a Tree Trek through downtown San Dimas. Susan provided a tour of the landscaped grounds with a rich discussion on the history and families that have lived and owned the historical home. The outside tour included a brief history of the Hoop Pine and other selected trees such as an ancient Deodar Cedar. The large evergreen Hoop Pine used to be covered in lights to commemorate an Edison employee. for Christmas each year and continued for several years until the blackouts of WWII.



The Walker House was built for people to stay as a hotel as they looked for land out west, but there was a recession and that failed. The original cost to construct the house was \$20,000. Later the Walker family bought the home for \$25,000 and added 40 acres of Citrus groves. The home was owned by the Walker family and its descendants up until 1978. The house has been a hotel and sometimes, like today also used as a restaurant. You can go to www.sandimashistorical.org for further information.

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