



## STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

P.O. Box 6415

Anaheim, CA 92816-6415

### NEXT MEETING:

**Thursday, August 18, 2011**  
**City of Santa Clarita**  
**Parkway trees, oaks & ordinances**  
**of Santa Clarita**

## 2011/12 MEETING SCHEDULE

August 18th	Parkway trees, oaks & ordinances of Santa Clarita	George A. Carvalho SCSC Activities Ctr. 20880 Centre Pointe Parkway, Santa Clarita
October 20th	The Highlights of the City of San Dimas	The Walker House 121 N. San Dimas Avenue, San Dimas
December 15th	Annual Scholarship Awards Hosted by STS	Kellogg West 3801 W. Temple Avenue, Pomona
<b>2012</b>		
January 13th	Western Tree Management Symposium **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



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

# STS Newsletter

JULY/AUGUST, 2011

VOLUME XVII ISSUE 4

## Community and Urban Forestry Professionals meet in Palo Alto

We hope you're having a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you at the 2011 conference September 15-17 in Palo Alto! We have a few timely announcements below, including encouragement for your swift booking of rooms at the conference hotel so that you get the best possible rate and we uphold our contract commitments.



We're requesting your nominations of urban forestry heroes whose work in the 2010 calendar year deserves to be celebrated and honored at the 2011 Annual Urban and Community Forestry Conference (to be held in Palo Alto, September 15-17). These are the folks that bring urban forestry to our communities, improving air quality, communities, stormwater management, creating jobs, cooling hot urban centers, providing beautiful views, and more!

A stellar lineup of speakers awaits you at the 2011 California Urban and Community Forest Conference (September 15-17 at the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel in Palo Alto):

- ◇ California Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird
- ◇ Public health and urban forestry with Dr Kathleen Wolf
- ◇ Pruning, including a hands-on tour, with Dave Muffly and Brian Kempf!
- ◇ Fruit trees and community forestry with TreePeople's Steve Hofvendahl and Sacramento Tree Foundation's Jacobo Cadiz
- ◇ Tree identification with Matt Ritter
- ◇ Funding and community investment with Professor Robert Eyler
- ◇ Partnerships and funding panel moderated by State Urban Forester John Melvin
- ◇ Tools for tree benefits with Kelaine Vargas and Paula Peper
- ◇ Innovations in municipal urban forestry with Dorothy Abeyta and Ron Combs
- ◇ Fundraising training with Kim Klein

And more, plus evening events for a chance to catch up with old and new friends!

Each year the California Urban Forests Council honors individual leaders, programs and projects that demonstrate innovation and inspiration in urban forestry.

The nomination deadline is **August 15, 2011**. Please spread the word and help us give your community's innovative leaders the recognition they deserve!

Awards will honor winners of the following categories:

- ◇ Best Urban Forestry Program
- ◇ Durrell Maughn Founders Award (awarded to an individual, organization, or agency that has done the most in the past year to advance Urban Forestry Education in California.)
- ◇ Urban Forestry Volunteer of the Year
- ◇ Community Building with Trees
- ◇ Outstanding Urban Forestry Project of the Year

We look forward to reviewing your nominations and to honoring urban forestry leaders that will bring inspiration to us all! Winners will be honored during the evening party at the conference on Friday, September 16 in Palo Alto.

Remember STS is your Los Angeles Orange County Regional Urban Forest Council. Keep abreast of state wide urban forestry issues and themes by participating.

NEXT MEETING!



Join us for our next STS meeting on **August 18, 2011**

**Parkway trees, oaks & ordinances of Santa Clarita**

**Round Table Discussion to follow (send topics to [jconway@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:jconway@newportbeachca.gov))**

**LUNCH SPONSORED BY STAY GREEN, INC.**

**LOCATION: GEORGE A. CARVALHO SCSC ACTIVITIES CTR.**

**20880 CENTRE POINTE PARKWAY - SANTA CLARITA CA 91351**

**SANTA CLARITA ROOM A**

**TIME: 10:30 AM FOLLOWED BY LUNCH**

**COST: COMPLIMENTS OF STAYGREEN!**

### The Importance of Street Trees

by Ruben Flores

God is the experience of looking at a tree and saying, "Ah!" – Joseph Campbell. I don't consider myself to be profoundly religious but I undeniably relate to this same feeling. I'm sure I am not the only person to have seen a magnificent tree, exhale, and follow with the words "beautiful" or even speechless with chills all over. Not sure how to describe it or why it happens other than I've been bitten by the bug, horticulture bug.

Many individuals outside the industry sadly find trees as simply an obstacle obstructing their view or a means of shelter from the sun. In other words trees today are under-appreciated and improperly treated. At the same time professionals in the industry as well tend to overly use the same types of trees and place them in unsuitable locations. Every tree has a purpose and I believe that there is one out there for every need.

Unfortunately designs and specimen selection is often done carelessly and it is the problem for which generations after will have to deal with. I personally would like to see an increased effort to implement California natives as street trees. The value and appreciation has been lost and yet they offer numerous benefits. Although they all may not give dazzling fall color or provide an unrivaled form, California natives will surpass in the minimal maintenance and resources needed to flourish.

Our street trees need to be presented to where their beauty is exhibited to all. Ronald Reagan once said, "If you've seen one tree, you've seen them all." There are countless differences and a wide variety to prove that statement wrong. The next time you get the opportunity to view a street lined with Jacarandas or Liquidambars in the fall, you are enjoying a vision of beauty that someone has created.



by Kay Hoevel

When I think of street trees what comes to mind are: afternoons spent climbing trees, photographs of canopy views, and La Mesa Drive in Santa Monica. Trees are what lead me to study horticulture. It is quite random but let me try to explain this fascination of trees. What makes street trees important are the simple gifts they provide.

I think of the street trees I climbed as a child, a walnut with its smooth bent white trunk, ash trees with their mounds of fall litter, and the Robinia, who's leaflets one could strip off the petiole to form a leafy rosette. Irresistible and forbidden but always worth the risk. What a wonderful feeling, to hold fast high in the canopy of these gentle giants, perched above the passing neighborhood. Street trees gave me this simple earthly gift.

One of my favorite photographic subjects is the view looking up into the canopy of a large tree, a blue sky divided by amazing fractal patterns. I have many photographs of this view, I keep looking for the shot that is beyond amazing and because the looking is so good. Just one more simple gift.

La Mesa Drive in Santa Monica is an iconic landmark. Not only for the magnificent Morton Bay Fig trees who year by year have claimed their space, lent their character and woven their charm, but for the residential designs of so many noteworthy architects; Paul Williams, Lloyd Wright...you get my point, and the list is so long. Aesthetics in this street are important. As the trees claimed their space, pavement cracked, sidewalks buckled, and utilities were re-routed. Someone stood up as a spokesperson and steward for these silent giants, someone whom recognized the beauty, structure and value of the Morton Bays. These street trees are survivors, and their gifts are charm and beauty. Like many street trees they define and unify the neighborhood, a gift.

In the depths of the city, street trees are often the only living landscape. In a city all life forms compete for space. To have more street tree survivors, we need to practice being good and vigilant stewards. Protect the street trees, and enjoy the shade on a hot day. What makes street trees important are their simple gifts.

### Scholarship Recipient Essays - part 2 of 3

by Kelly De La Peza

Street Trees add an undeniable beauty to a community. Among the obvious aesthetic value, healthy trees bring so much to a city. They bring a sense of permanence, and a comforting welcome to neighborhoods. They can increase property values. They provide homes, shelter, and sometimes nourishment to local wildlife. With proper selection and placement they can even cool buildings, lowering energy costs. They help to clean the air, and create inviting spots for us to visit in our local parks or village areas. The planning & maintaining of our urban green space is of utmost importance.

So much goes into creating & sustaining our urban forests. Proper tree selection & placement is vital. The right tree must be chosen for the right spot, and it must be planted correctly to insure future success. The quality of our street trees is largely reliant on proper pruning. Properly pruned trees add to public safety. Trees in public areas must be able to handle wind & storms. Improper pruning can also lead to pest and disease problems which can be devastating to a tree. Professional and skilled pruning greatly enhances the beauty and longevity of trees, adding enduring beauty to communities.

In my neighborhood there is an enormous Ficus macrophylla. The tree is more than 90 feet tall with a spread of more than 100 feet. It is magnificent. Among Glendorans it is affectionately referred to as "The Big Tree". It is said to have been planted by an Edgar J. Owens in 1890. It is part of Glendora's history as well as a part of many residents daily life. The city recently completed a renovation of "The Big Tree Park". It is now even more beautiful & inviting than before. It is just one of the many trees that I am so grateful for in my city.

In my opinion trees are at the heart of any landscape, and street trees set the tone for a city. Each time I explore a new community I cannot help but to judge it based on its tree lined streets!

by Sonia Rios

As urban areas expand, the need of urban forestry increases due to the need of sustaining the environmental quality and human well being in these areas. Trees are the dominate plant in any landscape and have a powerful effect on how any street feels, functions, and looks. City trees are important to our life styles and environment in many ways such as improve air quality, improve social connections, and save energy. Trees not only provide the gift of oxygen, but also remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere. Radiant energy from the sun is absorbed or deflected by leaves on deciduous trees in the summer which protects bystanders from the dangerous sun rays. By planting trees and shrubs in the city, we return to a more natural, less artificial environment.

Trees are a focal point for community revitalization and help engage youth in exploring their communities and creating awareness in current environmental issues. Benefits associated with service work in urban forestry that reduces crime, increases self-confidence, and self-efficiency in the communities youth.

Trees provide shade and can help keep homes and buildings up to 20 degrees cooler in the summer which is an average of \$126 per year in savings.

Trees effectively manage water through interception, evapo-transpiration, and infiltration. These processes can significantly reduce peak storm water flows, stabilize base flows, and naturally filter drinking water.

In conclusion, city trees eliminate carbon, engage youth, and save energy. So therefore, urban foresters play a vital role in the health and future of some of America's most important forests, which are the trees along our street, parks, and yards.



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