



STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

P.O. Box 6415
Anaheim, CA 92816-6415

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, June 21st
Annual Golf Tournament
Robinson Ranch, Santa Clarita

2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

June 21	Golf Tournament	Robinson Ranch - Santa Clarita
July 19	WTMS Summer Program - (separate registration req'd) Roots, Risk and Reforestation	Phoenix Club 1340 S. Sanderson Ave., Anaheim
Aug. 25	Trees of Cal State Long Beach Tour and Talk with Jorge Ochoa	CSLB - Horticulture Gardens 1305 East Pacific Coast Hwy, Long Beach
Oct. 25	Direction, Connection - Leading in your Community! Half day workshop with IE UFC (separate registration required)	Anaheim, CA
Dec. 13	Annual Scholarship Awards/Officer Inst.	Kellogg West @ Cal Poly Pomona, CA

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 **Christy Cuba @ christy@cycarlberg.com** with your reservation



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

STS Newsletter

MAY/JUNE 2012

VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 3

Highlights from May Meeting - Significant Trees of Los Angeles

By Christy Cuba, Secretary

The May general meeting was hosted by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Ms. Laura Bauernfeind, Principal Forester, and took place in Elysian Park at the Grace E. Simmons Lodge. Our program for the day was "Significant Trees of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks" presented by Mr. Jorge Ochoa, current Horticulture Department Chair of Long Beach City College and past City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks employee.

To start the program, John Conway introduced Laura Bauernfeind, who gave a brief presentation about the history of the city and the current urban forestry program.

The City was incorporated on April 4, 1850 and the City Council created the Department of Parks in 1889. At that time, the city owned several pieces of land that were believed suitable for park purposes. They turned over these properties to the newly-organized Department of Parks. In 1896, Colonel Griffith J. Griffith offered to donate five square miles of the Los Feliz Rancho to the City as a park. He said, "it must be made a place of recreation and rest for the masses, a resort for the rank and file, for the plain people..." What followed was the development of several more parks including the original pueblo lands of the old plaza (now known as Olivera Street), Elysian Park, Pershing Square, and later Lincoln Park, MacArthur Park, Echo Lake Park, and Hollenbeck Park.

Today, the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) includes about 1550 employees that are responsible for over 15,000 acres of parkland with over 400 neighborhood and regional parks, eleven lakes and more than 180 recreation and community centers. Besides the usual picnic areas, play structures, and sports fields,

some parks include Aquatic Centers, Recreation Centers, Pre-school Age License Child Care Centers, Senior Citizen Centers, Multipurpose Centers, Dog Parks, and Skate Parks. The Department also operates two beach parks, and the Venice Beach Ocean Front Walk. Griffith Park, the largest city park at 4,800 acres, includes the iconic Observatory, the Greek Theater, three golf courses, an Equestrian Center, miles of hiking and riding trails, Travel Town, the Zoo, the Gene Autry Museum, a carousel, pony trail rides, a swimming pool, Friendship Auditorium and a multitude of other facilities.

While the economic downturn has hit funding in the Department hard, they are continually striving to improve existing facilities and build new parks. Work is underway to update irrigation in parks to recycled water usage and under the "50 Parks Initiative", twelve new parks are planned for installation by the end of the fiscal year. Some of the new parks are pocket parks built on small parcels of previously bank-owned residential land that were donated to the Housing Authority. For implementation of the "Million Trees L.A." project, the Department has partnered with Tree People to facilitate volunteer plantings. No monies have been allocated from the city budget for this initiative, so the Department is teaming with non-profits for plantings and a two-year commitment to maintenance of the trees. About 375,000 trees have been planted so far.

The Department does not have a pruning cycle; never has. Everyone that works with trees have to be able to climb trees for maintenance. There are currently only 15 saw men on staff for the all of the parks! Overall, Department staff are a diverse and indispensable group of dedicated people that wear many hats on a daily basis. In the near future, the Department will be updating their tree inventory with the help of a newly awarded CAL FIRE grant.

Our guest speaker for the day was Jorge Ochoa, Horticulture Department Chair of Long Beach City College since 2009. Prior to that, Jorge worked with Laura at the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and was passionate about the City's sig-

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Many thanks to Jorge Ochoa, Laura Bauernfeind, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for putting on an interesting and educational event!



Join us for our next meeting
June 21, 2012
Annual Golf Tournament

LOCATION:

Robinson Ranch Golf Course
27334 Sand Canyon Rd., Santa Clarita

TIME:

8:00AM (FIRST TEE TIME)

COST:

\$75/PLAYER PLEASE REGISTER BY JUNE 11

NEXT MEETING!

Business Meeting - March, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President John Conway.

Past Presidents in Attendance: Wayne Smith, Kevin Holman, Rose Epperson

Raffle Prizes Donated By: Street Tree Seminar, Inc., RPW, Wayne Smith, Rose Epperson, Emina Darakjy, Christy Cuba, Robert Sartain & Debra Day

Raffle Winners Emina Darakjy, Kevin Holman, Christy Cuba, Fred Roth, Rose Epperson, Kay Hoevel, Alan Hudak, Lisa Smith, Clare Nelson, Dana Karcher

Next Meeting Sign up now for the STS 2012 Annual Golf Tournament! \$75/player includes green fees, cart, range balls, on course contest, one raffle ticket, gift bag and lunch.

See you there!

Highlights from May, continued

Continued from page 1

nificant trees.

Jorge presented a dramatic and entertaining look into the history of the City's parks and trees with his idea that "Trees serve as portals to the past".

His presentation illustrated documentation and historical photographs from the 1940's and 1950's that highlighted significant trees in the City parks and parkways. His talk touched on 500-800 year old oaks in Orcutt Ranch, a blue gum that was planted in the 1880's, other trees with historic designations and various citizen dedications, botanical rarities and one-of-a kind trees that can be found throughout the City's parks. We were also treated to illustrations of the old hand drawn "Tree Trails" maps and lists of species. After his presentation and lunch, we made our way out into the part of Elysian Park that comprises the Chavez Ravine Arboretum. Elysian means "paradise" and this site was historically selected as parkland and home to the Chavez Ravine Arboretum due to its exceptional microclimate and weather. It was officially dedicated as a park in 1917. Some of the City's oldest trees are located here. With copies of the "City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Rare Trees of Elysian Park - Tree Trail - Section 6" pamphlet in hand, attendees took a lovely, educational stroll through the grounds to gape and exclaim over some of the largest, oldest, rarest, and most magnificent trees in all of Los Angeles. Some stand-out species included; Morton Bay Chestnut, Umbu Tree, Red Horse Chestnut, Cluster Fig, Pin oak, African Sausage Tree, and an unusual eucalypt - Corymbia ferruginea - with fuzzy leaves. These, along with many other interesting species, were all enthusiastically explained in historical context by Jorge during our delightful walk through the portal into the past...



Top: Leon Boroditsky and Jorge Ochoa share their passion for the trees of Elysian Park. Bottom: STS members and guests are treated to an historic display of specimen trees during the tour.



The general meeting ended with announcements for upcoming meetings in June (the Golf Tournament), and July (new Summer WTMS) and the raffle. Many thanks to Jorge Ochoa, Laura Bauernfeind, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for putting on an interesting and educational event!



www.investfromthegroundup.org

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STS Scholarship Essay- The Importance of Street Trees- by Joel Balsiger

Why are street trees important? Why should we all be striving to not only protect those trees but also increase how many there are? There is a silent watch on the cities, a bustling jungle in the suburbs and a virtual forest in the neighborhoods we live in and for many of us we never really see it.

When I tell people I meet that I am from Southern California inevitably some of the things that come into the conversation are smog, traffic, the beach and Hollywood. People have the funny tendency of thinking that they can judge the place you live and that you will agree with them because "you are from there and you know what it's like". Many of these people have never been to California and unfortunately the only views of us they get are from sources that seem to focus on a select group of people in Hollywood. For the ones that have visited, one of the first complaints is the amount of traffic, followed closely by the almost always present brown cloud layer they flew through on the approach before landing. Thankfully, there is a resource out there that not many people ever really notice and that not many people seem to see. This resource is our street trees. Without a doubt I can say that it is impressive that amongst all the concrete that makes up this urban jungle we all love to call home, there is a real jungle thriving and living right alongside us. Sure squirrels are not monkeys and while possums are native to South America it still slightly scares us when we turn a corner and see two huge luminous eyes staring back at us followed closely by the odd run/waddle and a big white furry backside as the possum scampers away. Still, our own forest exists right before our eyes, blended into the very fabric that



Joel is one of four local students who were awarded scholarships through STS in 2011.

makes Southern California great. As such, this forest has become home to many varied and slightly odd creatures that many of us have started to take for granted. I must be honest though, when I see the possum run off I am glad that it runs into a bush or up a tree because if we did not have our precious trees I have a feeling that we would be seeing them on and under our doorsteps more and more. More than the wildlife though, the trees that are interwoven into our neighborhoods give us more than that; they remind us that regardless of how badly our day at work or at school went, life goes on. They remind us that in the midst of some of the worst droughts imaginable you can survive. They show us that no matter how hot the day you can still be green and cheery. Put simply, our street trees give us hope.

Why is this hope important? This hope gives rise to the better part of each one of us, the part that wants the best for ourselves and those around us. Some people, however, cannot see this hope simply because of how they are looking. Now if a survey was put out asking if people thought that in Southern California the amount of trees is equal to the amount of buildings, I have no doubt that they would say that are more buildings, or maybe that there are an equal number but I personally have seen the truth. As a tree climber, I have the privilege of ascending some of the most beautiful trees in my area and seeing the world as they do. When you reach a height where you can just start to see over the tops of the trees you begin to realize that there are many more trees out there than you thought. It is all a matter of perspective. These trees clean out air, give us something to look at when we are stuck in traffic, shade us on our days at the beach, and give us something else to enjoy when the latest celebrity couple has just broken up. To ignore these trees each and every time we drive by them is a crime.

This is just a small part of how important street trees are for each and every one of us regardless of where we live. To ignore the beautifully silent sentinels is to rob ourselves of the hope and beauty of tomorrow. The forest is there for now and it awaits those who wish to appreciate it. So next time when you tell someone you are from Southern California, go ahead and tell them you live in an urban jungle, because unless they choose to see what you choose to see, they will never see our forest.

2012 SUMMER PROGRAM July 19, 2012



Roots, Risk and Reforestation

The Phoenix Club 1340 S. Sanderson Avenue Anaheim, California 92806

Register today at www.streettreeseminar.com

Thursday June 21, 2012 STREET TREE SEMINAR ANNUAL GOLF EVENT Robinson Ranch Golf Course 27734 Sand Canyon Road Santa Clarita, CA 91387



Registration begins at 8:00am ~ Tee Times start at 9:00am

Contact Wayne Smith for more information! Cell (661) 510-2219