



# STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

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

**NEXT MEETING**  
March 30, 2017  
**Trees of Chernobyl**  
w/ **Ben Brown**  
Elysian Park  
929 Academy Rd, Los Angeles, CA

## 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

March 30	Trees of Chernobyl w/ Ben Brown	Elysian Park Los Angeles, CA
May 25	Irvine Ag Center w/ John Kabashima	Irvine Ag Center Irvine, CA
June 23	Annual Golf Tournament	Dad Miller Golf Course Anaheim, CA
July 20	WTMS Summer Program	Kellogg West Pomona, CA

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

### 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 Lisa McCoy at [lisa@crbtools.com](mailto:lisa@crbtools.com) with your reservation



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

# STS Newsletter

MARCH/APRIL 2017

VOLUME XXIII ISSUE 2

## Western Tree Management Symposium: Palmfoolery

*This years Winter WTMS was once again held at the incomparable Huntington Gardens and Library. STS President Ken Pfalzgraf welcomed our attendees and started off the day filled with amazing speakers and plenty of Palmfoolery!*

Our first speaker was David Smith from WD Young and Sons in Indio, California, speaking on Growing Palm Trees. WD Young was started over 40 years ago by David's father and uncle. Originally they simply moved the palms, and has grown to include a nursery and date farm. The nursery contains rows upon rows of palms, and unlike other nurseries, WD Young & Sons allows the landscape architect to walk the rows and choose the perfect species and specimen for each particular project. Though they have converted from the original flood irrigation to drip irrigation, in the summer months they sometimes return to flood irrigation for better ground moisture. When propagating the palms, the shoots are harvested one side per year, and each palm can have a life span of 40-plus years. When harvesting the fruit, they use a harvest bag technique to collect the fruit as it falls from the trees, helping to keep infestations out. Fruit production begins on each female tree after about 4 years.



STS President Ken Pfalzgraf with David Smith of WD Young & Sons

Our next speaker was Ken Pfalzgraf, City of Beverly Hills, speaking on Moving and re-establishing palms in the landscape. There are many aspects that go into successful re-establishment of a transplanted pine. These include stock choice, salvage, loading/transport, and installation. When choosing stock, one should look for clonally propagated palms grown under constant agricultural production. It should be free of offshoots, with all offshoots removed at least a year prior and no removal damage. Palms should be salvaged no more than 24 hours before installation. They should be free of known insect and/or disease infestation/infection, with a certificate of quarantine compliance issued by the applicable state agricultural department. The stems should be straight and free of taper variances, splits and curves. All palms should be freshly salvaged, within the past 24 hours. Hoisting equipment should be rated to remove, handle and load palms easily to avoid shock and crown/stem apex damage. Rigging should be made of nylon, not chain or braided steel. The rootball should be trenched and prepared so that the rootball is no less than 36 inches wide and 60 inches deep. They should be shaved to remove damaged roots and for uniform surface for stability. Make sure not to use equipment that has previously been in contact with diseased rootzones

without proper sterilization. Sterilize by immersing in a 50-50 water/bleach solution for 5 minutes. When loading the palms, remember, all rigging should be made of nylon. They should be loaded to provide uniform support of the crown to protect it from being crushed. It's recommended to use support cribbing for horizontal stability. The entire palm should then be tarped. Care should be taken to stop if necessary to keep the rootball moist. Installation of the transplanted palms should be made only to sites with proper drainage. Do not install in places where temperatures can fall below 17 degrees Fahrenheit. Palms should be installed when the ambient temperature is above 50 degrees F and average soil temperatures are in excess of 70 degrees F.

Owner requests to install in different conditions should be accompanied by owner acceptance of loss related costs. The location should be free of utility piping, cabling, etc. Excavation equipment should be placed to avoid damage to hardscapes. Proper safety procedures should be followed including re-routing of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The planting pit should be a minimum of 24 inches larger than the rootball on any side, and no more than 6 inches deeper than the rootball in native soil.

After the break, Don Hodel from the University of California Cooperative Extension in Alhambra presented on Some new developments and old facts about palm culture. Dr. Hodel explained that palms are woody plants, and may be arborescent, so they are natural tricksters. New developments in palms include 2 new pests: the South American Palm Weevil, and the Polyphagous shot-hole borer. The South American Palm Weevil is native to tropical America and has been killing palms in Mexico since 2010. They were detected and trapped in San Diego in 2010 as well, but began attacking San Diego Palms in 2015. They have since been detected in Imperial Valley, CA as well as in Arizona and Texas. It's common hosts include the Canary Island date palm and the date palm. The vectors nematode causes red ring disease, a deadly wilt of palms, though so far the nematode has not been detected in California, Arizona or Texas. Signs and symptoms of SAPW damage include "chewed" looking leaf tips, mid blade notching, leaf base grooving and tunneling, and crown wilting. Management of the SAPW includes proper removal and disposal of the infested palms, proper culture, avoidance of wounding the palm, mass trapping with pheromone baits and pesticides, and prophylactic contact pesticide

(Continued on page 3)

*Palmfoolery, continued from page 1*

treatment after pruning. Another new palm pest is the Polyphagous shot-hole borer, which causes fusarium dieback. PSHB have been attacking a wide variety of trees for the last 14 years. It attacks some 200+ woody species, including some palms. They carry a fungal complex that causes the fusarium dieback. FD attacks 137 woody species, including some palms. The female beetles are small and black, 1.8-2.5mm long, while the males are wingless, smaller, and brown. Fungi-carrying females land on their host, bore into the wood, lay eggs and spread the FD; the larvae then feed on the fungi. Once mature, the siblings mate, and the pregnant, fungi-carrying females leave through the entry hole made by their mother. They are most active in summer and fall in So Cal, when populations and damage can spike. Signs and symptoms of PSHB include small, precise entry holes, gumming, stained or darkened surface tissues, fine sawdust-like frass, but NO whitish, sugary exudate as in non-palm trees. Management of PSHB/FD includes optimal selection and culture, early detection and proper removal/disposal, and in some instances, prophylactic trunk sprays and soil drench might be beneficial. Trunk injections are discouraged.

Next up was Dr. Monica Elliot, University of Florida in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Dr. Elliot spoke on Wilts, blights and rots: The diseases of Palms. These included Fusarium Wilt of Canary Island Date Palm and Fusarium Wilt of Queen and Mexican Fan Palms, Thielaviopsis Trunk Rot and Petiole Blight. FW of Canary Island date palm is caused by the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *canariensis*. The leaf symptoms include on-sided death, and is often accompanied by a reddish-brown or dark brown streak on the petiole and rachis on the same side as the desiccated leaflets, leading to eventual death. These symptoms normally appear first on the oldest (lowest) living leaves, and move upwards in the canopy until the palm is killed. Transmission of the fungus from palm to palm is primarily through contaminated pruning tools. There is no cure for this disease, so disease management is disease prevention. Use new tools or disinfect before pruning each new tree. FW of Canary Island date palm can only be diagnosed in a lab using molecular techniques. FW of Queen and Mexican Fan Palms is caused by the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *palmarum*. This disease is similar to the Canary Island FW, but the pathogen subspecies and host range are different. The leaf symptoms include a one-sided chlorosis (yellowing) or necrosis (brown due to death) of the leaf blades, with a distinct reddish-brown or dark brown stripe on the petiole and rachis.

Internal petiole and rachis tissue is discolored, leading to eventual entire leaf death. The symptoms appear first in the oldest living leaves, then move up the canopy until the palm is killed, often just 2-3 months after the initial symptoms are observed. The fungus is spread by wind-blown spores, but can also be transmitted through contaminated tools. There is no cure, and diseased palms should be removed immediately. It can only be confirmed in a laboratory using molecular techniques. Thielaviopsis trunk rot is caused by the fungus *Thielaviopsis paradoxa*. This fungus will either cause the trunk to collapse on itself or the canopy to fall off the trunk, both with no warning. The palm canopy often looks healthy prior to collapse. Except for stem bleeding, common in the coconut palm, there may be no symptoms prior to collapse. Management of this disease includes limiting man-made wounds to the trunk, since the fungus only infects fresh trunk wounds, especially in the upper third. Diseased palms should be removed immediately, and the trunk portion destroyed but not recycled. Petiole Blight is caused by numerous fungal pathogens, but the symptoms are all similar to each other and to the Fusarium wilt pathogens. The pathogens for this blight infect only the petiole, not the leaf blade. Very little is known about these diseases, and diagnosis requires laboratory confirmation.



**Don Hodel with Tree ID Challenge Winner, Kathy Copley**

During lunch we held our Annual Students vs Professionals Tree ID Challenge. Congratulations to our winner, **Kathy Copley!!** The professionals took it this year!

After lunch, our presenter was Javier Quiroz from the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, presenting on Staying safe while working in Palms. Javier followed his talk with an outdoor demonstration on palm rescue. Attendees watched as Javier showed and explained how to do an aerial rescue from a palm tree.

After the main program, those who stuck around were treated to an optional Palm Walk through the gardens with Don Hodel— what a treat!

Thank you to all of our presenters and attendees for making 2017's Winter WTMS another great success. We look forward to seeing you at our Summer WTMS July 20th in Pomona.

*Notes from our February 2017 Meeting*

Our Winter 2017 WTMS was held at the beautiful Huntington Gardens. Thank you to all of our speakers and attendees— it was a great success!

**Congratulations to our Grand Prize Raffle Winner and owner of a brand new TV: JOSE URTEZ!!!**

**Past Presidents in attendance were:** Rose Epperson, Christy Cuba, Fred Roth, Al Remyn, Wayne Smith, George Gonzalez

**Prizes were donated by:** Emina Darakjy, Rose Epperson, Ted Lubeshkoff, Century Products, Mauget, WD Young, Christy Cuba and RPW Services.



**STS President Ken Pfalzgraf and Vice President Ann Hope with Jose Urtez**

**Next Meeting:**  
**March 30, 2017 // 10:30AM**  
Trees of Chernobyl w/ Ben Brown at Elysian Park  
929 Academy Rd  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Visit our website for more information or to register  
[www.streettreeseinar.com](http://www.streettreeseinar.com)

*To Tree or Not to Tree: A Scholarship Essay— by Trisha Moreira*

The importance and safety of urban trees has been a debate for quite some time. Site selection, the choice of species, and maintenance are all factors that go into planting a tree on the street. Making sure that a tree is not planted in a location that power lines and the canopy of the tree will meet is crucial. Establishing trees on sidewalks has many benefits if the layout is done properly.



Street trees have proven to be helpful in instances such as providing a sense of safety to residents and pedestrians. These trees help construct a distinct line that is more visible to motorists in order to help distinguish the road from the sidewalk. They serve as a line of defense to hopefully deter or prevent motorists that have accidents from taking a human life. Not only do they serve as defense from vehicles, street trees also serve as protection from sun and heat. Pedestrians are able to stay cooler in the shade provided by these trees on a hot day.

nature incorporated into hardscapes can create a more relaxed atmosphere. Patients in hospitals that have window views can also gain some inner peace from street trees. To have something that is naturally beautiful to look at, even if it is from a window, brings happiness that cannot be brought by staring at a television screen.

The purpose for these trees also includes the improvement of air quality. Trees that are planted on the side of the street are able to help with the pollutants released from cars quicker than a tree in the distance. The amount of engine noise is also reduced with these trees absorbing the clatter. Softening the features of concrete, trees are able to provide a sense of peace and help many individuals with psychological health. Road rage is reduced when people are in a relaxing environment, and having



**Al Remyn, Trisha Moreira & John Conway**

The importance of having urban trees in cities is a topic that needs to continue to be addressed. The benefits we receive from these trees are incredibly helpful in many circumstances. Street trees help with erosion control, heat control, aesthetic purposes, mental health, safety, air quality, and overall health to the environment. It is important that we take care of street trees so they can take care of us as well.

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