



STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

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

NEXT MEETING

May 25, 2017

Irvine Ag Center

w/ John Kabashima

South Coast REC

7601 Irvine Blvd, Irvine, CA

2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

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 19	WTMS: Extreme Urban Forestry: The things we do for trees	Kellogg West Pomona, CA
August 20	Robinson Gardens Tour/Talk	Robinson Gardens Beverly Hills, CA

Interested in hosting a program in your community? We are interested in hearing from you!
Contact 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 with your reservation



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

STS Newsletter

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Trees of Chernobyl— by Ashley Simpkins

On March 30th Cal Poly Pomona student, Benjamin Brown, joined us to recount his recent trip to Chernobyl with Dr. James Downer.

He began with some background on the subject, briefly describing the disaster and evacuations that took place in cities surrounding this nuclear reactor. The locals were informed of the explosion one week after it had occurred and were told that the evacuation would be brief. This was not the case, however, as many homes and buildings in the area give a small glimpse into the lives of these residents in 1986.



mate the age. It was much more difficult to take these measurements in Pripjat, as they had to navigate through several feet of leaf litter and dense plant growth.

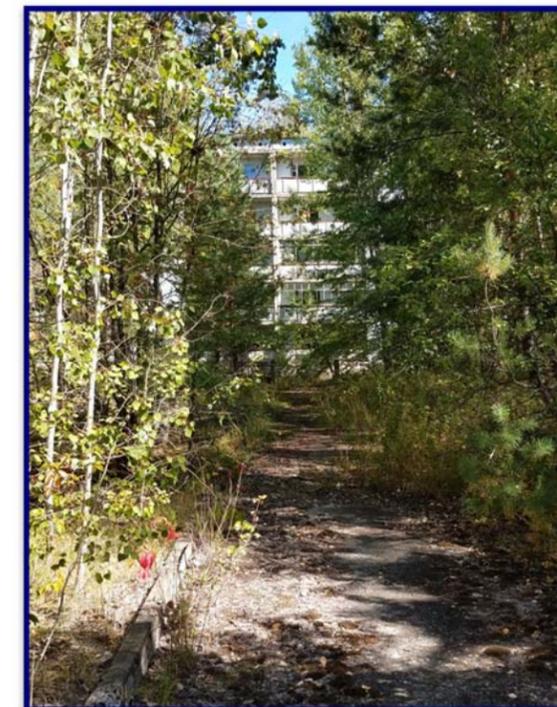
After their visit, Benjamin and Dr. Downer held Ukraine's first-ever gathering of arborists. The meeting was met with mixed emotions, because many arborists in Ukraine do not wish to share

their trade-secrets. Others were excited to learn better practices and safety tips. The difference of mindsets between Ukrainian and American arboriculture truly struck Benjamin, and gave him a new appreciation for the family-like community we have created to promote networking and education.



Pripjat was one of the nearest towns to the disaster. It remained closed to the public until 2011, and in that time, nature has reclaimed the site. Horsechestnuts, common street trees in the area, have remained untouched by arborists for over 30 years. Other trees such as Poplar, Birch, Locust, and Scots Pine quickly repopulated the city and have made some areas completely inaccessible. They have resiliently made their way through chain link fencing, concrete, windows, and even up water pipes to roof of a 19-story building!

Dr. Downer recorded data from the Horsechestnuts in Kiev, a large city just south of the disaster, to be compared with street trees of Pripjat. Height, health, DBH, radiation levels, and chlorophyll was measured and a core was taken from each tree to esti-



Want to hear more? Benjamin will be presenting at our Summer Western Tree Management Symposium in Pomona, California— Extreme Urban Forestry: The Things We Do for Trees. For more information, or to sign up online, visit our website— www.streettreseminar.com

News you can use: Single-family homes killed L.A.'s urban forest

Plant a tree, save the world? Maybe, but preventing the chopping down of trees for single-family home add-ons or the paving of shrubbery for driveways and other "hardscaped" property features would go a lot further, say researchers with the USC Spatial Sciences Institute.

In the Los Angeles area, green cover for single-family home lots declined anywhere from 14 to 55 percent, with almost no single area spared from the decline, according to a study published online in the journal *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* by a team of researchers led by USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences lecturer in spatial sciences Su Jin Lee and including USC Dornsife and USC School of Architecture Assistant Professor Travis Longcore.

Much of this "de-greening" took place as the city of Los Angeles famously kicked off its "Million Trees" tree-planting campaign in 2007. Other major cities like New York, Shanghai and London have undertaken similar campaigns in recent years.

For its study, the Spatial Sciences Institute researchers looked at tree, building and other land cover for the 20 largest cities in the Los Angeles Basin for the period of 2000 to 2009.

The researchers did this by first noting all the single-family parcels in these cities where additional square footage from 2000-09 was recorded.

Then they digitized high-resolution aerial imagery of these parcels provided by the Los Angeles Region-Imagery Acquisition Consortium, identifying six different types of land cover -- buildings, hardscape, swimming pools, shade, grass and trees/shrubs.

Finally, the researchers compared the change in imagery over these six types of cover from the two points in time -- 2000 and 2009.

The entire area examined by the researchers saw a 1.2 percent annual decrease in tree and shrub cover year-to-year.

Baldwin Park: Half the "park" it used to be

Baldwin Park led all areas in reduction, seeing a 55 percent loss of green cover on single-family residential lots in the mere span of nine years.

Other areas in the study that had at least 20 percent loss in cover included Pomona, Downey, Sylmar, Compton, and San Pedro/Port of Los Angeles.

The Pasadena area was a notable exception. The city found a way to minimize tree loss in what is already a fairly verdant community. Longcore also cites the regulations of neighboring South Pasadena, especially in protecting its many tree-lined, suburban lots from redevelopment.

Longcore, however, is quick to point out that sacrificing trees for redevelopment cuts across all Southern California neighborhoods, regardless of socioeconomic status.

"We are losing tree shade across economic areas," he says. "Wealthy areas might generally have more trees to start with, but all single-family areas are losing across the board."

The unintended consequences of ambitious redevelopment

Robust urban forests, or "green infrastructure," can reduce energy use, improve water quality and increase overall health and well-being, according to the United States Forest Service.

Longcore believes changing social views on the preferred size of single-family homes is the largest driver of tree cover loss, along with the increase in paved surfaces like walkways, driveways and swimming pools that come with home expansion.

In their report, the researchers note that the average size of single-family homes had steadily increased from 984 square feet in 1950 to 2,349 square feet in 2004.

A decade after the housing bust, property development in the age of home improvement reality television is as ambitious as ever, with new homes reaching 2,687 square feet, and nearly one-third more than 3,000 square feet, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's annual survey in 2016.

Municipalities also often encourage redevelopment as a way to increase tax revenues.

"While the housing expansion throughout the 2000s certainly drove an exceptional amount of construction, the practices that contribute the most to removing tree cover and canopy still remain," Longcore says.

SOURCE: University of Southern California via sciencedaily.com



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Notes from our March 2017 Meeting

Our March 2017 meeting was held at the Grace E. Simons Lodge in Los Angeles, CA.

Past Presidents in attendance were: Rose Epperson, Leon Boroditsky

Prizes were donated by: Emina Darakjy, Rose Epperson, Ted Lubeshkoff, Ann Hope, Rebecca Criscillis, Greg Applegate, and Ken Pfalzgraf

Raffle Winners: Lucas Mitchell, Ann Hope, Leon Boroditsky, Emina Darakjy, Greg Novosel, Clare Nelson, John Brown

Next Meeting:
May 25 2017 // 10:30AM

Irvine Ag Center & Tour
With John Kabashima
South Coast Research and Extension Center
7601 Irvine Boulevard
Irvine, CA
RSVP to Lisa McCoy- lisa@crbtools.com

Visit our website for more information or to register
www.streettreeseinar.com

Admiring My Urban Forest: A Scholarship Essay- by Danette Dean

As I drive down the streets of Pasadena, California, home of the roses, I can't help but admire all of the beautiful trees lining the roads. I had always known growing up that I was blessed to live in such a gorgeous place, but I never really understood the benefits of growing up in a tree filled city. Outside of the obvious aesthetic appeal, trees offer so much more to the community. Most streets were lined with a designated tree, while some were lined with a variety of trees; all the trees offering a unique quality to each street.

I have spent many days walking around Pasadena admiring the beauty of these tree-filled streets, not knowing that it was called an Urban Forest, strategically planned by the City of Pasadena. I loved walking down different streets and feeling like I was transported to a completely different area, even though these areas were in walking distances of each other. Some of my favorite streets were filled with huge trees that displayed canopies so big that even though the street was wide, the branches touched in the middle, forming a green tunnel down the street. Trees like the Camphor wood trees that line Belvidere Street, or the giant Cedar deodar that line Santa Rosa Avenue in Altadena, fondly known as Christmas Tree Lane to us locals. These non-native trees were planted at the border of Pasadena and Altadena to line a driveway to a mansion that never got built. I also can't forget the variety of Oak that line many streets all over the city, or the Mexican palms that tower over them all.

Little did I know prior to my studies at Mt. San Antonio College, that these trees not only boasted about the great history of my city, but offered a very beneficial quality to the residents that called Pasadena their home. According to "Urban Street Trees, 22 Benefits Specific Applications" by Dan Burden, in the hot summer months, these trees offered shade to pedestrians both walking and driving and cooled the surrounding buildings, dropping the buildings' air conditioner usage. In the rainy season, these trees captured anywhere from 50%-60% of the rain that fell either into the tree canopy or down in to the roots system, minimizing storm runoff. The carbon dioxide that our cars give off is also absorbed into these trees, for which we receive plenty of fresh oxygen in return. How about the

aesthetic appeal of the trees boosting property values anywhere from \$15-25,000, or the calming effect trees have on a person when either admiring them or just being in their vicinity?

I could go on and on about the beauty of my city but instead of taking my word for it, why don't you come and visit? Come and take long walks or cruise the streets of Pasadena admiring its cozy feel. I promise you will not be disappointed. If coming to Pasadena is not something you can do in the near future, why not step outside of your front door and admire again the beautiful trees in your neighborhood? Research the plans of your city and see what is being done to expand your "Urban Forest". I am sure you will not be disappointed to find out the history and purposes for the trees planted around your neighborhood. I know it was an eye-opening experience for me.



Al Remyn, Danette Dean & John Conway

STS Golf Tournament

Our annual golf tournament June 23rd at Dad Miller Golf Course in Anaheim. This is a great opportunity to network and have fun while supporting the STS scholarship fund.

Please visit
www.streettreeseinar.com to download the registration form & sign up. We are also looking for sponsors and raffle prize donations.

For any information including registration or donations, please contact Wayne Smith at (661) 510-2219 mobile, (661) 290-2206

