



# STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

Your Los Angeles/Orange Regional Urban Forest Council

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

### NEXT MEETING

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017  
Kellogg West @ Cal Poly Pomona  
Pomona, CA

## 2017/2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

2017		
December 14	Annual Scholarship Luncheon	Kellogg West Pomona, CA
2018		
February 15	WTMS Winter Program "The Urban Forest and You"	The Huntington Gardens San Marino, CA
March 22	TBD	TBD
May 24	TBD	TBD

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

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## Highlights from our Tour of Virginia Robinson Gardens— by Lisa McCoy

October's meeting was held at the beautiful Virginia Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills. The Robinsons home was built in 1911 and was one of the first homes in Beverly Hills. Known for hosting the area's most legendary parties—it was not uncommon to catch famed individuals entering and leaving the estate.

Today, the garden is recognized as not only a historical landmark, but also as an exotic paradise that all sightseers are invited to enjoy. With 6.5 acres of gardens the Robinsons brought plants from all over the world to plant. One such plant is a Coral Tree. The Robinsons donated seedlings from their beautiful South African coral tree, which they had originally brought back while abroad on one of their many overseas adventures in the early 1900s.

Over time, this majestic South African coral tree has reached a very mature age and size. "The tree is so big," states Timothy Lindsay, Superintendent of VRG, "that it now qualifies to be listed with the state of California as a California Big Tree." The Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute (UFEI) is a state registry that qualifies trees, based on tree size and height. Currently, there are 122 Big Tree listings, and Virginia Robinson Gardens' South African coral tree is one of



Walkway through the Palm Grove

them! This spectacular 90+ year-old specimen measures 65 feet high, with a trunk circumference of 184 inches and a crown spread of 80 feet.

Virginia died at the age of 99 in 1977 and at that time she willed her property and home to the County of Los Angeles for the public to enjoy. This was a great expense for the County to take on so a group called The Friends of Robinson's Gardens has raised funds for the upkeep the home and gardens require. The home itself is in the national registry listed as a historical home.

The Robinsons Palm Grove is very unique and special; it was populated with King Palm seeds from Queensland Australia that flourish on the eastside slope of the property. A tour of the palm grove was given to us by the groundskeeper Tim Lindsey.



Palm Canopy in the Palm Grove

If you would like a tour of the home and gardens, they are available for the low price of \$11, and open Monday through Saturday.

For more information about visiting the gardens, visit their website at [www.robinsongardens.org](http://www.robinsongardens.org)



Virginia Robinson's Pool House

Notes from our October 2017 Meeting

Our October meeting was held at Virginia Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills. STS President, Ken Pfalzgraf led the meeting.

Past Presidents in Attendance were Leon Boroditsky, Kevin Holman, Alan Hudak and Rose Epperson

Raffle Donors were Ken Pfalzgraf, Lisa McCoy-Century Products, Leon Boroditsky, Rose Epperson, Ann Hope -Mauget, Lucas

Mitchell, Kevin Holman-RPW, and Ted Lubeshkoff- JTL Consultants  
Raffle Winners: Ann Hope, Ken Pfalzgraf, Lisa McCoy, Ted Lubeshkoff, Carl Mellinger, Rebecca Rivera, Heather Crippen, Ariel Rodriguez, Lucas Mitchell, Leon Boroditsky and Marty Richter

Our next meeting will be held at Kellogg West @ Cal Poly Pomona, December 14, 2017 Visit our website for more information or to register [www.streettreseminar.com](http://www.streettreseminar.com)

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The Importance of Street Trees - Benjamin Brown, 2016 Scholarship Recipient

Very often in the arboriculture industry we bring up the topic of why street trees are so important. Popular points include the increase in property value, energy savings, carbon sequestration, and the mitigation of urban heat islands. However, all of these points are very anthropocentric—that is to say, they are centered on how street trees benefit humans. Let's take a moment now and consider how street trees are beneficial outside the realm of man.

While many cities are now trying to go green and become more environmentally friendly, there is no doubt that for a time we were headed in the wrong direction. With exploding populations and no knowledge of how so many people would affect the environment, many urban centers grew at exponential rates. In some cases, this led to concrete jungles—areas devoid of much life outside of humans and our domestic animal friends. This has led to gaps in natural ecosystems which has at times caused trouble for the natural world. Now that we have come to understand the problem this has caused, many cities and individuals are making efforts to reverse damage done.

One of the best ways discovered to help mitigate human-caused damage to ecosystems is with street trees. Street trees keep soil light and porous, allowing ore rainwater to return to underground aquifers. Their canopies provide homes for wildlife while the shade they cast helps stop the heat island effect. As mentioned previously, trees also help sequester carbon, simultaneously removing pollutants from the air we breathe. While all of these things benefit us, they also benefit the natural world.

Just a few months ago, I had the privilege of accompanying Professor Jim Downer as he conducted research on trees in Pripyat, Ukraine—trees within the nuclear exclusion zone of the infamous Chernobyl incident. During my time there, I was able to explore a few of the abandoned cities. While this region had environmental problems prior to the nuclear incident, it is now a pristine natural habitat. After 30 years, the trees have spread to all corners of the city, even



Trees in Chernobyl take over

growing out of third story windows and on the rooftops of 16 story buildings. Street trees planted years ago have filled these cities and turned them into forests. It is amazing to see how in the face of a man-made disaster, these trees were able to turn this region back into a fully functional ecosystem. Not only do street trees have value now, while we are here, but, should we ever be displaced, they will become the backbone of the ecosystems to follow us. While we hope we don't have to face catastrophes such as this in the future, it is nice to know that what we do

today can help return the world to a beautiful state even in the wake of the worst disasters. We can't go wrong with street trees. They are a blessing for the present, and a gift for the future.

**Benjamin Brown is one of five recipients of Street Tree Seminar's annual scholarship in 2016** Benjamin is a 3 time scholarship awardee attending Cal Poly Pomona with a course of study in Environmental Biology/Plant Science.

STS 2018 Slate of Officers

Past President Leon Boroditsky would like to present the slate of officers for the 2018 Street Tree Seminar Board of Directors:

- President: Ann Hope
- Vice-President: Emina Darakjy
- Past-President: Ken Pfalzgraf
- Secretary: Lisa McCoy (2nd year of term)
- Treasurer: George Olekszak
- Director 3rd Year: Lucas Mitchell
- Director 2nd Year: Ted Lubeshkoff
- Director New: Rachel Malarich



Electronic ballots will go out 11/20/17 - please check your email

Meet the Candidate: Rachel Malarich!



Rachel Malarich has been working in urban forestry in the Los Angeles area for the past ten years, educating and engaging residents and helping communities across Los Angeles County plant and care for trees in their neighborhood streets, schools and parks. The past several years she has been engaging more deeply on urban forestry policy issues facing the city, particularly through the City of Los Angeles' Community Forestry Advisory Committee (CFAC).

She is the Environmental Services Manager at Koreatown Youth and Community Center, the Council District 2 representative for CFAC, an ISA Certified Arborist, Tree Risk Assessor Qualified (TRAQ), and the former Director of Forestry for TreePeople.



KOREATOWN YOUTH + COMMUNITY CENTER

Recommended Trees for Southern California Update



We are proud to announce that the 3rd revision of our publication, *Street Trees Recommended for Southern California*, is in its final stages of editing before heading to print. A big thank you goes out to our committee for all their hard work in making that happen.

If you'd like to be put on a list to be notified when the book is available for purchase, send an email to [heather@streettreseminar.com](mailto:heather@streettreseminar.com) or call 714.639.6516

PICTURED HERE: Editing Committee, from left: Dave Roger, Kathleen Mahoney, Emina Darakjy, Fred Roth, Nancy Sappington. Not Pictured: Leon Boroditsky.

Upcoming Industry Events

Nov. 29-Dec. 2	ASCA Annual Conference	Stevenson, WA	<a href="http://www.asca-consultants.org">www.asca-consultants.org</a>
Dec. 8	Resetting the Standards of Tree Care	San Marino, CA	<a href="http://www.wcisa.net">www.wcisa.net</a>
Jan. 13	Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop	National City, CA	<a href="http://www.ptcasandiego.org">www.ptcasandiego.org</a>
Feb. 4-8	TCIA 2018 Winter Management Conference	Maui, HI	<a href="http://www.tcia.org">www.tcia.org</a>
Feb. 18-23	2018 Municipal Forester's Institute	Litchfield, CT	<a href="http://www.urban-forestry.com">www.urban-forestry.com</a>