



# STS NEWSLETTER

A bimonthly publication of Street Tree Seminar  
Your Los Angeles/Orange County Regional Forest Council

## WTMS Summer Recap: After the Storm - What's next for our urban trees?

**Our Summer 2023 WTMS was once again held at the incomparable Huntington Gardens in San Marino. We had a great group of speakers and attendees! Thanks to everyone who attended this year!**

The morning started with a welcome from STS President Rachel Malarich. We had four morning presentations followed by lunch and a garden tour led by Emina Darakjy. We returned to the auditorium for two afternoon speakers. The day wrapped up with our raffle. Congratulations to our grand-prize winner, new owner of a brand new smart TV! Below is a short summary of each presentation. Download the available Power-Point presentations here: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/umakdywp25h3udfusvmxw/h?rlkey=hv9f9eshv3btn0zap4hd2n9y&dl=0>

### Managing Collection Canopy through Climate Extremes at the Huntington- Nicole Cavender, Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens - Nicole

shared information regarding the Huntington Plant Information Dashboard - There are 83,300 total living plants in the Botanic Garden database including 6,200 trees. Fallen Tree data collected (Wind/Rain Storm) from Nov 2022 - March 2023 showed 17 Trees fell over with rain. 6 trees fell but still alive, 40 trees proactive removal

Sustainable Water Use & Practices in progress include: Weather- Based Irrigation Controllers, Wireless soil moisture sensors, Flow monitoring devices, Pressure regulators and check valves as well as Drip Irrigation and High Efficiency Nozzles. Ongoing practices include - Hydrology Studies

Water Security and Prioritizing Collections Water Management. They plan on starting a Large Scale Water Capture and Reuse

The Gardens launched the Huntington Arboreal Recovery - More than a dozen powerful storms unleashed rain in excess of 40 inches that contributed to the loss of 35 trees including 11 mature Coast Live Oaks - consider a gift to help replant this incredible landscape

**From Storms to Lakes: Understanding the Journey of Stormwater Runoff- Greg Smith, LakeTech, Inc. - Greg shared the great information about stormwater runoff. Why should we care?**

Causes water pollution: Transports pollutants from paved surfaces to aquatic environments.

- Leads to flooding: Increased runoff overwhelms storm drain systems.
- Contributes to erosion: High velocity runoff erodes soil and stream banks.
- Harms aquatic life: Pollutants degrade habitats and water quality.
- Triggers eutrophication: Excess nutrients stimulate excessive plant growth.

### Canopy Coverage and Urban Wildlife- Travis Longcore, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, Los Angeles Audubon Society

Travis shared thoughts on caring for birds and other wildlife within a changing urban environment. He stressed the importance of "pruning kindly" and leaving stag trees in the landscape to create habitat for birds and other wildlife



### Tree Demographics for Arborists: how long do trees live and how to use that information in your projects- Dr. Lara Roman, USDA Forest Service - Dr. Roman shared the methodology and research over several years. Conclusions of note included

- To grow the urban forest, tree planting needs to outweigh tree losses
- Net population change alone, and mortality rates alone, do not tell us whether trees are proactively managed
- Importance of stewardship & maintenance
- Need for longitudinal monitoring data to analyze mortality and growth

After a wonderful tour of the Arboretum's trees with STS Past President, Emina Darakjy, we had an impactful talk on **Stormy Skies: Assessing the Impact of Storms on Tree Canopies** by Russell Clark from Plantit Geo.



**California Tree Failure Database – Post Storm Update- Dr. Igor Lacan, University of California Cooperative Extension. Dr. Lacan finished the day with a wonderful session on the Western Tree Failure Database. He discussed the history of the program and reminded us that the information we share helps to bring common failures and hazards to the surface so that we can make smart management decisions. Igor suggests we all participate at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/igor>**

*We want to thank past president, Emina Darakjy for her dedication and leadership facilitating the program at The Huntington - we couldn't do it without her.*

Thanks to our exhibitors - American Green Zone Alliance, Arborjet, RPW Services, Street Tree Seminar and Western Chapter ISA



## Great Trees of the LA/OC - Emina Darakjy

### *Lemon Bottlebrush*

#### ***Callistemon citrinus* – lemon bottlebrush**

The bottle brush is native to Eastern Australia and belongs to the Myrtaceae family.

The name callistemon is derived from the Greek word meaning “Beautiful stamen”, and its common name bottle brush is attributed to the its flowers that resemble bottle cleaners.

This bottle brush is a small size evergreen tree with a rounded canopy. It grows to a maximum height of 25 feet with an equal spread making it a good choice for planting underneath power-lines.

The leaves are narrow light green, simple, alternate and emit a lemon scent when crushed.

In the spring to early summer and scattered throughout the year, the tree is covered with an explosion of clusters of brush-like bright red flowers with a nectar that attracts all kinds of birds and bees.

The fruit comes in the form of dark woody capsules that follow the flowers and tend to stay on the tree for a long time. These capsules contain small seeds that are adored by wildlife.

The bottle brush is a tough tree with no known pests or diseases at the present. It tolerates many soil conditions but does better in a well-drained soil. It prefers a sunny location but can take some partial shade. This is a simple tree to grow that only requires an occasional light pruning when needed.

There are many species and cultivars in the bottle brush family. The two most commonly planted ones in our area, are the *Callistemon viminalis* which has is very distinctive look due to its weeping form and the *Callistemon citrinus* described in this article.

The bark of the bottle brush is light-gray, furrowed and tends to peel off.

This is a tree that is well suited for planting in a parkway and medians . Damage to sidewalks from its roots is minimal. This tree is also deer resistant if this is a concern in your area.

Due to its stunning display of vivid red flowers that last for a very long period of time, the *Callistemon citrinus* is a very popular tree to plant as a single trunk or as a shrub.

Some people may object to the litter caused by its flowers when they drop. I view this as a sign of a “living tree” doing what it is supposed to do.



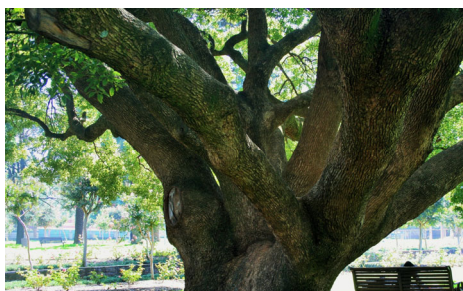
## The Importance of Street Trees

*Scholarship Essay - Amy Garza. 2022 Scholarship Recipient*

When I think of street trees and urban landscapes, I think of the song "Big Yellow Taxi," originally released by Joni Mitchell in 1970. I am more familiar with the Counting Crows' rendition from the early 2000's when I first went to college. This song is a classic, not just because it has a catchy tune, but because the sentiment is relatable for lots of generations, from the 1970's, to the 2000's, to now. "You don't know what you've got, till it's gone. They paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

I grew up in Arizona where the desert landscape is beautiful, but not very green. When I moved to California 5 years ago, I was fascinated to see how many plants grow here so abundantly. The street I live on is lined with large trees and the nearby parks are lush with trees, shrubs, and flowers. I was shocked to see that plants and trees line the highways and street medians. In Arizona, where water is scarce and temperatures are extremely hot for most of the year, most highway shoulders are covered in concrete and street medians are filled with gravel. So, you could say that my experience is the opposite of the song. I came from a city with a lot of cement and gravel to a place that has a lot of green landscapes in public areas. This makes me very aware and appreciative of all the green space that is so easily accessible.

Green space is so important for humans. Studies have shown that interaction with nature decreases stress, increases concentration, and increases overall mood and sense of well-being<sup>1</sup>. Green space increases opportunities for social interaction, helps build a sense of pride and community, and can actually help to reduce violence and crime. It also provides areas for physical exercise and activity, which is essential for physical wellness. Even minimal interaction, such as viewing a green space from a window, can help



increase worker productivity and improve healing time in hospital patients.

About 13 million people live in the greater Los Angeles area, more than 20% of which live in apartment homes<sup>2</sup>. I am one of them, and I am so grateful for the parks within walking distance of my apartment and all the trees and plants that are right outside my doorstep. These public green spaces give me quick and easy access to nature. During quarantine, I, like many others, struggled with social isolation, getting enough exercise, and my mood. But when I went for walks and got into nature, I felt better. My worries and stress melted away. My energy increased and I usually ended up doing more with my time the rest of the day.

All of this is why I am so passionate about public urban green spaces here in Los Angeles. We need to keep what we have beautiful and flourishing. The mature trees that line our streets need to be properly maintained so that they can continue to benefit us for years to come. Building in Los Angeles will never end, so we need to work with developers and contractors to protect plants and trees in construction areas. If plants or trees fail or are removed during construction, we need to make sure they are replaced. And whenever possible we need to add more plants in public areas and do so with good, responsible design and planning. Let's heed the words of Joni Mitchell and protect what we have while we've got it.



**Amy Garza is a student at Mt. San Antonio College and is working towards her Landscape Design II Certificate. She is currently interning with Fleur Nooyen & Associates, (Fleur is a previous STS scholarship awardee!) and plans to have a career in Landscape Design.**



Golf with Us on October 19th!



# Street Tree Seminar Inc. Annual Golf Tournament



**GREEN RIVER GOLF COURSE**  
5215 Green River Rd ~ Corona, CA 92878  
**Thursday, October 19, 2023**  
Registration begins at 7:30am

**FORMAT:**

- Best Ball- American Scramble, Scoring System will be determined by Street Tree Seminar prior to the day of the tournament and will be handed out to each player/group prior to the start of the tournament. The net scores will be used to determine the winners and runners up.
- Mulligans will be available to purchase at registration- A total of four mulligans per team (one per player) at \$20 each.

**PRIZES:**

- First, second and third place team.
- Longest drive, Closest to the pin on a selected par three – Men’s and Women’s divisions.
- Prizes will be awarded following the tournament.
- Raffle tickets will be available at check in.

**ENTRY PROCEDURE:**

- Entry form is attached below.
- Fee is \$125 per player (\$450.00 for a complete foursome) includes green fees, cart, range balls, on course contest, one raffle ticket, lunch and Benefits of Trees to Humans and Urban Ecosystems with Janet Hartin presentation
- Sponsorship opportunities available!

For further information – contact Ernesto Macias [emacias@wcainc.com](mailto:emacias@wcainc.com) (714) 713-0269 cell

**ENTRY DEADLINE: ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, October 11, 2023.**

**Street Tree Seminar Annual Golf Tournament  
ENTRY FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card or Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHERS IN FOURSOME(S)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Register online or mail to: STS, Inc., P. O. Box 6415, Anaheim, CA 92816 or Fax to 714/639-6746- No later than 10/11/23

Post Golf Lunch Presentation with Janet Hartin



October 19, 2023

Post Golf Tournament Lunch Presentation  
Benefits of Trees to Humans and Urban  
Ecosystems with Janet Hartin

The link between trees and the health and well-being of individuals, communities and urban ecosystems has been scientifically documented for centuries. Hundreds of studies have been published documenting these benefits that enhance cognitive functioning and mental and physical health; improve societal and community health; and provide multiple ecosystem impacts that cool urban cities (did you know that a well-placed tree can reduce the temperature of impervious surfaces by more than 70 degrees F in inland cities and surrounding air temperatures up to 12 degrees F?); enhance biodiversity; reduce erosion and runoff; decrease energy use and costs; sequester carbon dioxide, and many more. Speaker Janet Hartin, Environmental Horticulture Advisor with University of California Cooperative Extension, will highlight these benefits, specific recommendations regarding climate resilient tree species, and discuss how you can be a part of the "Trees for Tomorrow" project she provides leadership for that has provided more than 1,200 trees to residents of low-shade neighborhoods over the past three years through education provided by the UC Master Gardener program and partnerships with Inland Empire Resource Conservation District and multiple other organizations, community groups, and non-profit organizations.



Janet Hartin is a University of California Cooperative Extension Environmental Horticulture Advisor in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Her research and education focus on identifying "climate-resilient" landscape trees that are drought, heat, and pest resistant and minimum irrigation requirements of a wide range of landscape plants. She has served as Principal Investigator on competitive grants and contracts from international, national, and local agencies and

organizations totaling over \$2.5 million dollars and presented over 1,500 talks to the green industry and Master Gardener volunteers on the selection and care of landscape plants and the human and ecosystem benefits of urban trees. Hartin currently serves as the University of California representative on the California Urban Forestry Advisory Committee and as University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) Associate Editor Chairperson, Leader of the UC ANR Environmental horticulture Program Team, and Member of the UC ANR water strategic initiative team. She has authored hundreds of peerreview and popular articles and papers including lead author on the recent UC ANR "Benefits of Plants to Humans and Urban Ecosystems" publication.

*This meeting was made possible by the support of the USDA Forest Service and CALFIRE. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 19, 2023

12:00 PM–2:00 PM

GREEN RIVER GOLF COURSE- 5215 GREEN RIVER RD, CORONA

\$25.00 /member  
\$30.00/nonmember  
*(\$5.00 goes towards Scholarship Fund)*

1.5 CEU Available

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714.639.6516

TO REGISTER – VISIT  
[www.streettreeseinar.com](http://www.streettreeseinar.com)





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**Meeting Schedule 2023**

- Oct 19**      **Golf Tournament/Lunch Talk**      **Green River Golf Course**  
**Benefits of Trees to Humans and Urban**      **Corona, CA**  
**Ecosystems with Janet Hartin Janet Hartin**
- Dec 14**      **Scholarship Awards/Officer Installation**      **Agriscapes @ Cal Poly Pomona**  
                **Pomona, CA**

*Stay Tuned for our 2024 Calendar of Events!*

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

**Industry Events**

- Sept 5**      **PTCA– Making the Cut with Brad Brown (Evening meeting)**  
**Ptcaosd.wildapricot.org - Escondido, CA**
- Sept 8**      **Pests and Diseases of Trees**  
**www.wcisa.net– Anaheim, CA**
- Sept 13**      **Budgeting for Tree Care Success Webinar**  
**www.californiareleaf.org**
- Sept 14**      **Protecting CA’s Palms– A Webinar on South American Palm Weevil**  
**www.sdrufc.com**
- Oct 4**      **Responses of Urban Trees to Drought and Changing Irrigation Practices**  
**www.wcisa.net– zoom webinar**
- Oct 6**      **Soil Ecology & Tree Day**  
**www.wcisa.net– San Luis Obispo, CA**
- Oct18/19**      **Desert Green XXVII - Managing Extremes**  
**www.desert-green.org- Las Vegas, NV**

**MISSION**

*“To provide a forum for professionals to share their experience, knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the membership and the enhancement of Southern California’s Urban Forest”.*



**VISION**

*“To enhance the health and beauty of Southern California’s Urban Forest”.*