



# STREET TREE SEMINAR, INC.

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

# STS Newsletter

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## Highlights from the Summer 2012 WTMS – “Roots, Risk & Reforestation”

By Christy Cuba, Secretary

**T**he first ever summer Western Tree Management Symposium (WTMS), was held at the stately Phoenix Club in Anaheim on July 19th. The theme, “Roots, Risk & Reforestation”, was represented throughout the day by our guest speakers on topics such as long range forestry plans, new and old diseases, infrastructure issues, the new Tree Risk Assessment BMP, trees & the law, and a case study of Mother Nature vs. municipal forestry.

it couldn't get any better, the frass weenies slide shook everyone up and made us remember how fun plant pathology can be!



After a short break, Larry Costello of Oracle Oak, LLC in San Francisco (recently retired from the UC Cooperative Extension) presented and update on the all-important topic of reducing infrastructure damage by tree roots. Urban foresters and city engineers have been wrestling with this topic for decades, yet it remains one of the most common and costly problems in the urban landscape. Larry presented numerous methods for avoiding damage in the hardscape. Over years of experimenting by fellow urban foresters, some methods have proven effective and other not so. Key factors for success in pitting trees against sidewalks, curbs and gutters include knowledge of various trees' root system characteristics, understanding the tolerance of root pruning by species, knowing the types of roots present (tap, lateral, sinker, oblique, or fine), and matching species to the planting space. At the end of his talk, Larry called for case studies from members for use in updating Larry's popular book, “Reducing Infrastructure Damage by Tree Roots; a Compendium of Strategies”. If you have a story, successful or not, Larry wants to know.

To start the day, Walt Warriner, Community Forester for the City of Santa Monica, presented the city's newly adopted Long Range Urban Forest Plan. This plan is a long range, dynamic, planning tool that allows for consistent control and development of the urban forest, along with policies and procedures for its operation over time and through generations of urban foresters. Walt took us through the reasoning, processes, and benefits of adopting a long range plan. From enhanced public outreach and community education, to integration of inter-departmental policies and guidelines, development of a long range urban forestry management plan clarifies the economic, environmental, and community benefits of trees and puts trees in the proper hierarchy of infrastructure planning.



Our next topic, “Diseases of Shade Trees”, was presented by Dr. James Downer, UC Cooperative Extension, Ventura County. As Dr. Downer stated, you can never really hear about diseases enough...there is always something new coming down the pipe and new generations of arborists are born every day. With detailed talk of root rots, cankers, heart rots, and scorch diseases, Dr. Downer entertained and educated us all on the old and the new vectors and infections that can impact the trees of our trade. In addition, new insects are arriving every day and with them comes new disease potential. Dr. Downer reminded us all that a good diagnostician does not stop at one answer, but remembers that more than one culprit can be compromising a tree. Just when we thought

Continuing after a delicious lunch, Ms. Nelda Matheny, of HortScience Inc. in Pleasanton, CA presented an educational overview of the newly released “Tree Risk Assessment BMP” (Best Management Practices) promulgated by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The new BMP is intended to serve as a guide for arborists to assess and evaluate tree risk, and to recommend measures that achieve an acceptable level of risk. The BMP provides a reader with clear information on risk assessment basics, levels and scope of tree risk assessment, tree risk mitigation, and tree risk reporting. It defines the three levels of risk assessment and provides a qualitative matrix approach to categorize risk. With the BMP, an arborist should be able to distinguish among levels of risk that



Attendees mingle with the exhibitors during the Summer WTMS program

Continued on page 2

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Thursday, AUGUST 23rd**  
**Outstanding Trees of Long Beach**  
**Long Beach, CA**

## 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

Aug. 23	Trees of Long Beach Tour and Talk with Jorge Ochoa	LBCC - Horticulture Gardens 1305 East Pacific Coast Hwy Long Beach, CA
Oct. 25	Direction, Connection - Leading in your Community! Half day workshop with IE UFC (separate registration required)	West Coast Arborists Office 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.”

NEXT MEETING!

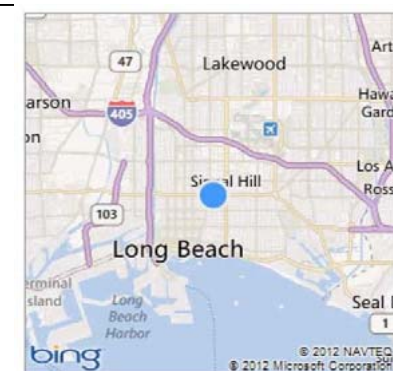
## Join us for our next meeting - August 23, 2012 Outstanding Trees of Long Beach

### LOCATION:

Long Beach City College  
1305 E Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA 90806  
Meeting will be outdoors at the Horticulture gardens under the shade of a large Bald Cypress Area # NN.

TIME: 10:30AM-1:30PM

COST: \$15/PRE REGISTERED \$20/ AT THE DOOR



Remember to email Christy Cuba @ [christy@cycarlberg.com](mailto:christy@cycarlberg.com) with your reservation

Highlights from WTMS, continued from page 1

trees pose. It clearly outlines the field process for risk assessment and evaluation procedures. An inspection form is in the works, but has not been released. In 2013, ISA will offer a tree risk assessor qualification (as opposed to a certification) based on the BMP that can be obtained through study and testing.

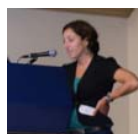
Following the risk assessment discussion, attention turned to Mr. Kenneth Graham and Ms. Darya Barar of the City of Pasadena. Pasadena, a seven square-mile city that boasts more than 57,500 trees and 64,500 street tree sites was especially hard-hit by the unusually strong winds on the night of November 30-December 1, 2011. Sustained wind speeds were clocked at 82-92 MPH and gusts in the mountains above Pasadena reached a reported 167MPH. approximately 1,500 trees failed on the night of the storm, another 500 had successive failures that resulted in removals, and about 3,500 trees experienced broken limbs and structural damage. In total, 5,523 tree-related issues have been addressed to date due to the storm in Pasadena. Kenneth and Darya discussed the heroic efforts of the city crews and administrative staff to perform an efficient, economical, and safe clean-up effort. It was a massive undertaking. They also explained which species suffered the most failures and the contributing factors to those failures. The three critical factors were - wind speed and direction, species, and location. Setting priorities and calling in support from pre-existing contractors were key to their success. Material transfer and storage was a huge issue. They advised members of every city in attendance to set up a contingency plan to address material storage and transfer, train staff to communicate with the public,

and to build your relationships with key contractors now. All of the tree failure information from Pasadena is being shared with the UC California Tree Failure Report Program (CTFRP).

Our final speakers were Mark Porter and Lisa Smith. Mark and Lisa are both independent consulting arborists (not attorneys!) that work in the southern California region and beyond. They presented an eye-opening look at "Trees and the Law; The Good, The Bad & The Ugly". It was a refreshing twist to hear real-life consultants' case studies that have applied the laws we have all heard tell-of for so many years. Lisa and Mark discussed references, code sections, significant rulings (like Booska vs. Patel), and definitions that all arborists should know. They used select slides of specific cases from their experience to provide a clear illustration of the importance of this topic. Boundary lines, root conflicts, solar panels, poor pruning practices, and breach of reasonable care all came into the discussion. The bottom line, do your homework and learn the laws that apply to your trade. Make friends with an attorney that can help you with the interpretations and help keep you abreast of new tree-related laws and codes in your region.

A big thank you to all our wonderful speakers and the staff of The Phoenix Club in Anaheim for making our first summer WTMS a great event! Next year we all have to wear Hawaiian shirts! ~

Christy Cuba  
July 31, 2012



WTMS program packed the house at the Phoenix Club in Anaheim

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STS Scholarship Essay- The Importance of Street Trees- by Fleur Nooyen

Imagine a street without any trees. Parched, bare, dusty and cracked soil next to concrete sidewalks. No sound of leaves rustling in the wind. Not a bird chirping for a mate. No two squirrels fighting over fruit or nuts. No cover of shade under the California sun. The outline of buildings harsh and glaring, the sun's reflection blinding your eyes. Dust combined with air pollutants blowing up whenever a car drives by. Not even a single tree trunk for a dog to sniff for signs of who else lives in the neighborhood. I don't know about you, but if I come across a street like this in the greater Los Angeles basin, a feeling of tremendous sorrow descends over me. A street like this, so barren, is so unnatural that even nature can't let this go on... Before long, a crack in the concrete, a Tree of Heaven seedling or the tip of a Mexican fan palm frond will rear its head trying to bring life to a state of deprivation.

Now imagine a street, planted with young trees, small and juvenile, eager to grow up. Newly planted, it shows the human desire to beautify and soften their environment and, if well chosen, how these young trees will make all of life a little more sustainable; offering oxygen, showing off flowers and absorbing run-off rainwater. When you come across a street like this, it is like the trees offer us hope. Young trees have dreams to fulfill, taking us into the future. It shows we care.



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

Or imagine a street with majestic, mature and statuesque trees, arching to the opposite side, creating a canopy, cooling and shading everything below. Their bark and branches proudly showing off marks of all the elements they have weathered over time. You almost get a sense there is a history pulsing through them. A history of horse-drawn carriages, of life long ago. Old, strong, majestic trees can give us a sense of calm. It's impossible for me to think there is anyone who can walk or drive streets like these without a sense of awe.

Even on a sparsely planted street in the desert, the smallest leaved thorny trees or sky-reaching palms are filled with life. Hummingbirds fight over territories, lizards bask in the blaring sun and at sundown bats might emerge from their nests among the palm fronds. These trees show how life is possible in the most adverse circumstances of heat, cold and little water. If you have never done so, put your ear against the trunk of a towering Mexican fan palm swaying in the wind- the forces you'll hear at play might delight and empower you.

I believe trees speak for themselves and I think we all have an innate understanding of how important trees are in our lives, how they can heal our psyche, how they can connect us with community, the natural world around us, the past and the future, and perhaps, with ourselves. Let us take care of the trees among us the best possible way we can. They are our heritage. Let us plant many young trees, setting the tone for the future. They are our hopes and dreams. Let us plant a variety of species to foster the most bio-diverse environment possible. They are what will help heal the planet.

2012 Golf Tournament Results

The STS 2012 Golf Tournament was once again held at beautiful Robinson's Ranch. Thank you to everyone who came out to brush up on their golfing and support the STS Scholarship Fund. Congratulations to our winners

- 1st Place- Tadd Russikoff, Wayne Smith, Scott Soper, Vic Vular
- 2nd Place- Tony Martinez, Bennet Modal, Efrain Ferrer, Angel Sotelo
- 3rd Place- Dave Davis, Chris Davis, Mike Redman, Bill Reed
- Men's Long Drive- Jeff Morrison
- Women's Long Drive- Mary Perdue
- Men's Closest to the Pin- Angel Sotelo
- Women's Closest to the Pin- Mary Perdue

Pacific Vista Landscape - Trophy sponsor, Roy Boak Tree Service - Closest to the pin sponsor, Stay Green Inc. - Long drive sponsor, Epicenter Management - Tournament Sign sponsor, and Valley Crest Tree Company - Gift Bag sponsor



Thank you to our generous raffle prize donors: Dana Karcher, Lisa & Frank Madero, Emilio Blanco, STS, Tip Top Arborists, Valley Crest Tree Company, Robinson Ranch, Wayne Smith & Pro-shop Mark.

And Congratulations to our raffle prize winners: Mike Redman, Emilio Blanco, Carlos Mendoza, Robert Sanchez, Robert Newman, Robert Thompson, Colin Humphreys, Angel Sotelo, Evan Aldrich, Tadd Russikoff, Brandon Smith, Chris Davis, Mary Perdue,

The event could not take place without the support of our key sponsors. Wayne Smith offers a huge high five to:

Richard Dunbar