



MEMBERNEWS

Improving San Diego's quality of life through proper tree care.

JUNE 2019

PO Box 796 | Orange, CA 92856

July 2019 PTCA Tree Walk Details

Join us for the the second Tree Walk of 2019. This July, join the PTCA on a tour of Kit Carson Park in Escondido. Speakers Chris Gunther and Dan Simpson will share details on some of the trees there.

The park was named after Christopher (Kit) Carson, the famous scout who guided Captain John C. Fremont over the Sierra Nevada Mountains during a government exploration expedition. The park sits in a valley that is approximately five miles west of where Kit Carson fought in the Battle of San Pasqual. A historical monument commemorating the battle is located on Mule Hill, one mile southeast of the park.

The City of Escondido acquired the land for its largest regional park from the City of San Diego in 1967. One hundred acres of the park have been developed and 185 acres have been preserved as natural habitat.

We will meet around 5:15 PM near Tree Lake at the south end of the the Park. We will be starting the walk at 5:30 from the Bear Valley Parkway parking lot.

Please visit our website at www.ptcasandiego.org to register, or contact our office at 714.639.6516. Don't miss this great opportunity to network with other local commercial arborists and learn about Escondido's largest park!

PTCA Summer Tree Walk Series July Tree Walk Details

Date: Tuesday, July 2, 2019

Location: **Kit Carson Park**
3333 Bear Valley Parkway
Escondido, CA

Cost: Free for Members

Register: www.ptcasandiego.org

Tree Walk Begins 5:30 PM
Arrive between 5:15 - 5:30

Scheduled Topic
Escondido's Largest Regional Park
Chris Gunther & Dan Simpson

Highlights from this Issue

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San Diego Zoo *Africa Rocks* Exhibit

Page 5 PTCA 30th Annual Seminar & Field
Day Informational Flyer



Dan Simpson kicks off the PTCA Summer Tree Walk Series at 'Africa Rocks' Exhibit.
Read more on page 4.

Page 6 TREE OF THE MONTH:
Tree fuschia (*Schotia brachypetala*)

Page 7 SAFETY UPDATE:
The '5-15-90' Rule

INDUSTRY NEWS

Irrigation Association creates two new awards for water conservation

The Irrigation Association recently announced two new Smart Water Application Technologies awards aimed to recognize water providers for spearheading efforts to conserve water through stakeholder engagement, education and programs that promote efficiencies in outdoor water use.

The SWAT awards will annually recognize water providers with two awards:

Outstanding Industry Partnership Award

This award recognizes efforts to increase partnerships with landscape and/or irrigation professionals.

Outstanding Public Engagement Award

This award recognizes work to engage and educate residential and commercial end users on smart and efficient technologies, best practices and programs related to outdoor water conservation.

"Water providers everywhere are developing new and innovative ways to engage and educate their custom-

ers on the importance of outdoor water use, conservation and irrigation efficiency," said Abby Owens, public works compliance analyst with the City of Plano and chair of the IA's SWAT Promotions Working Group. "I am excited for the IA to recognize these inventive programs that not only save water but also promote education, best management practices and use of efficient irrigation technologies throughout their service areas."

The inaugural SWAT awards will be presented during the 2019 WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition on Wednesday, Oct. 2, in Las Vegas.

The application process for the awards opens on June 3 and runs through July 31. The application and information about the awards can be found by visiting:

www.irrigation.org/swatawards.



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About the PTCA of San Diego

OUR MISSION is to improve our community's quality of life by making our urban forest safer and more beautiful through education and proper tree care.



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EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS are held on the first Tuesday of each month. During the summer months, arboricultural tours ("Tree Walks") are featured throughout San Diego County.

We are in the process of selecting a new meeting location. Until a permanent venue has been chosen, we will meet at Filippi's Pizza Grotto (Scripps Ranch), located at 9969 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego.

The cost to attend general meetings is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. Summer Tree Walks are free of charge. Information for upcoming meetings is available at our website at www.ptcasandiego.org, and in our monthly newsletter.

CEUs are available!

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PTCA ANNUAL SEMINAR & FIELD DAY is held every August, featuring industry experts bringing the latest research and information to San Diego's historic Balboa Park.

Cosponsored by the Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego and City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, this is your best local opportunity to get information or training in your field of tree care.

Have an event for our calendar?

Submit it to:

kathleen@epicentermgmt.us

Interested in Advertising?

Please Contact:

heather@epicentermgmt.us

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
www.ptcasandiego.org

These days, we all seem to have commitments that require our full attention. This means a near-constant review and adjustment of our shifting responsibilities, duties, and tasks; whether personal, familial, or professional, each responsibility has an assigned priority. Commitments are nothing new. They have always been around.

Think about how the PTCA began in 1985. This was before the bloom of technology offered assistance and diversion. Back then, a small group of local tree care professionals attended seminars and learned about changes in tree pruning methods. These visionary folks saw a need to educate tree pruners/climbers and service operators about this new and vital information. You can see this reflected in the PTCA mission statement.

The commitment they had was not just to trees and pruning, but to fellow arborists, communities and the public. They all had the usual array of family and business obligations but they still made the time to develop the idea into an organization. If you look back on those early years, you must wonder how they found or made the time to create the structure of this organization. They created and filled positions like President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board

of Directors; additionally, they drafted by-laws. Recruiting new membership was a shared responsibility despite the resistance of the free spirits who claimed this new tree mafia was not for them. "Humph! No Topping? They won't last!"

Well here we are, decades later and the early commitments of those few have indeed benefited many. The 30th Annual Seminar and Field Day this August is a prime example of why the PTCA began and demonstrates the desire for continuing education among professionals in our organization.

The PTCA depends on members, especially those who are willing to make a commitment to serve in an active capacity. This means stepping forward and assuming responsibility for a position. At this time, we are actively seeking candidates for a variety of positions on committees and on the executive team. This is a great opportunity to learn and develop skills that will help your professional career.

You are most likely an accomplished arborist or tree worker already, but skills like leadership, time management, public speaking, information organization, and communication are key to advancement in any field. Experience is the best teacher and this is a great alternative

to formal academic classes. Back in the beginning, our founders were able to grow into their roles and still develop their businesses plus meet family duties. Consider how you think of them. What is the source of your respect? Quite likely it is their demonstrated commitment to more than just themselves. This is the mark of a professional! A continued commitment to fellow arborists, our communities and to trees.

Reach out to them and make a connection for technical advice and career guidance. They remember what it was like learning and growing. They are happy to mentor aspiring leaders. So please review and prioritize your commitments; maybe discuss your career path with your significant other. Look to your future as an active member of the PTCA. Think about how you want to be seen by the next generation of tree care professionals.

For more information on open positions, please e-mail Dan Simpson at dsimpson.tree01@gmail.com. You can also meet up with Dan in person at the upcoming July 2 Tree Walk in Kit Carson Park in Escondido.

Watch the PTCA website for details on the 2019 Annual Seminar and other future meetings.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Heat Warning! Proactively Protect Workers To Avoid Cal/OSHA Citations

As temperatures soar this summer, Cal/OSHA safety inspectors will be blanketing California to ensure that job sites are complying with "high heat" procedures to protect outdoor workers.

Among other measures, it is crucial that workers are actively monitored for early signs of heat illness. This helps ensure sick employees receive treatment immediately and that the symptoms do not develop into serious illness or death.

California's heat regulation requires employers to protect outdoor workers by taking these basic steps:

- Train all employees and supervisors about heat illness prevention.

- Provide enough fresh water so that each employee can drink at least 1 quart, or four 8-ounce glasses, of water per hour, and encourage them to do so.
- Provide access to shade and encourage employees to take a cool-down rest in the shade for at least 5 minutes. They should not wait until they feel sick to cool down.
- Ensure that emergency medical services can and will be summoned when an employee feels sick or exhibits signs of heat illness, such as nausea, exhaustion or mental confusion.

- Develop and implement written procedures for complying with the Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Standard.

Online information on the heat illness prevention requirements and training materials can be obtained at:

- Cal/OSHA's Heat Illness webpage: www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/HeatIllnessInfo.html
- the Water. Rest. Shade. campaign www.99calor.org
- A *Heat Illness Prevention* e-tool is also available on Cal/OSHA's website at: www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/etools/08-006/

May Meeting Summary



This year, the first installment of the PTCA Summer Tree Walk Series was held at the San Diego Zoo. Dan Simpson led us on a narrated tour of the trees within the *Africa Rocks* Exhibit.

This was a limited, special admission event. Those of you that signed up and failed to show actually prevented others from attending. Note to future self: if you sign up, please attend! Or let someone know so that we can fill the vacancy.

Thank you to the twenty tree lovers who did attend. Everyone had a great experience. Who can forget the black leopard who growled and shared a welcome at dusk! A very special moment! Night zoo is an opportunity to see the area if you want to try for the same. There are wonderful trees at both Zoo and Safari Park locations!

The *Africa Rocks* Exhibit is huge and fills the entire canyon from lower end to upper level. It is designed to show that Africa is not all desert and rain forest. It has a diverse mix of habitats, animals and plants. This is the newest exhibit at the zoo and represents the biological diversity and habitats found in Africa.

Once known as Dog and Cat Canyon, this area contained old pipe and wire cages from the 1940's, as well as open air exhibits from the 1960's. These were cleared to make way for the new exhibits better suited to sharing the stories of threatened species and vanishing habitat.

This was a largescale area renovation with extensive soil movement for underground utilities and road alignment, allowing few options for tree preservation. Only one very large *Ficus*

microcrapa was preserved in place. The San Diego Zoo hosts a large collection of well-represented *Ficus* species, so others were designated for salvage during planning. During the demolition phase, these specimen examples were boxed, but most of these were too large to transport off-site and were staged close by, where they waited for several years. When the time was strategically right, these trees (especially the African species) were then transplanted to their key locations. Activities were limited around them during the next phases of construction. Timing is everything, so as spaces were available, these tree species were installed to aid in developing the new landscape into African habitats.

Rock splitter fig is as common in the African savannah habitat as strangler figs are in a tropical setting. Some specimens are still small at this point but will grow in time. There is even a specimen of *Ficus exaspera*, a very rare species and likely the only one in the western hemisphere.

Commercial sources of rare species are rare, so to attempt creation of an accurate African treescape, species substitutes are used to provide the same function. For example, Mesquites are suitable simulations for Thorn Acacias; and, as their trunks swell, *Brachychiton rupsetris* depicts the giant Baobab trees.

One new species we saw was the *Schotia brachypetala*, aka Tree Fuschia. Several specimens were showing their dark red flowers. Many of the smaller shrubs were actually grown by one of our



PTCA members who supplied them for this project.

Although our tree walk focus was on trees and landscape, we also saw quite a few of the zoological residents. Fossa and red ruffed lemurs reside opposite each other to show their biological relationships.

Another relationship we saw was between the 65-foot Rady waterfall and the Devils hand tree, an interesting example of the impact of humidity. The tree was salvaged and placed near the lower pools, but the mist from the waterfall seems to be a problem for the tree trunk facing the spray.

Tree protection is critical for reducing animal impact on some trees inside of enclosures. Baboons can have a huge impact on trees. Some of their impact on plantings was very obvious. Long hours in a confined space focuses activity leaving a huge impact. Those who manage trees in high impact public areas may learn something about damage patterns and growth response. Animal impact may even be worse than the 'people-pressure disease' Dr. Shigo used to speak about.

Irrigation is also a challenge with a new landscape of mixed plants and animals, but areas in this exhibit are becoming well established.

For those interested in observing the evolution of this uniquely themed canyon length landscape, please consider an annual membership in the San Diego Zoo. It is the best value to be found for those who enjoy the study of nature and relaxing recreation. This is where I learned so much about trees during my long career.

-Dan Simpson, Edu. Chair



*The Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego
and the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department are
co-sponsoring the*

30th Annual Seminar and Field Day **Celebrating our 30 years of PTCA Seminars**

August 16 and 17, 2019

Balboa Park Club ~ San Diego, CA

Seminar: Friday, August 16, 2019, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

Balboa Park Club, 2150 Pan American Rd W, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

- 7:00** Registration and Refreshments
- 7:30** Welcome and Introductions
- 7:45** **KEYNOTE: Urban Forestry Management:** Paul Johnson, Texas Forest Service
- 9:00** **Pros & Cons of TRAQ:** Jan Scow, Consulting
- 9:45** Morning Break
- 10:00** **Soil Ecosystems:** Igor Lacan, University of California Cooperative Extension
- 11:30** **PTCA Awards Presentation**
- 12:00** Lunch by Bekker's BBQ
- 1:00** **Life of Consulting Arborist:** Ron Matranga, Atlas Tree Care
- 2:00** **Palm Pests:** Mark Hoddle, University of California at Riverside
- 2:45** Afternoon Break
- 3:00** **Managing Risk in Trees:** Kevin Eckert, ArborGlobal
- 4:00** Completion of CEU Forms and Adjourn

**Two Day
Event!
Attend
Either or
Both Days!**

Field Day: Saturday, August 17, 2019, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm
Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park, San Diego, California

- 7:00** Registration / Vendor Displays and Equipment Demonstrations

	Track I	Track II	Track III
	Arborist – English	Tree Worker	Tree Worker
7:30	Being a Professional (Bilingual) – Paul Johnson		
8:15	Sexy Soils - Igor Lacan/Mary Matava/David Kelley	Innovative Climbing and Techniques - Jared Abrojena	Groundman Responsibilities - UTCA
		Chainsaw Safety and Work Positioning - Jared Abrojena	Climbing Techniques: Beginners and Advanced - UTCA
10:00	Break		
10:15	Tree walk with Kevin Eckert	Groundman Responsibilities - UTCA	Innovative Climbing and Techniques - Jared Abrojena
		Climbing Techniques: Beginners and Advanced - UTCA	Chainsaw Safety and Work Positioning - Jared Abrojena
12:00	Lunch by Rodriguez Taquizas		
1:00	Case Studies: Ron Matranga	Precision Felling - Jared Abrojena	Gear Junkie Corner - UTCA
2:00		Gear Junkie Corner - UTCA	Precision Felling - Jared Abrojena
3:00	Raffle and CEUs		

Continuing Education Units available at both the seminar and field day for: ISA: Arborists and Tree Workers
DPR: PCA, QAC, and QAL
TCIA: Certified Tree Care Safety Professionals

FREE PARKING available in lots near the Balboa Park Club.
Seminar and Field Day Locations are Handicapped Accessible
NO RECRUITING ALLOWED

The Tree Fuschia (*Schotia brachypetala*)



I like to share items from the prior month's experiences, so this issue's Tree of the Month is one we saw on the June PTCA Summer Tree Walk through the San Diego Zoo's Africa Rocks Exhibit.

Mostly known locally as the tree fuschia, *Schotia brachypetala* is a woodland tree species native to southern Africa and a member of the Fabaceae family. Its dark, red flowers are produced from the spring to summer here. They are found throughout the smaller branches of the canopy. The copious amounts of nectar they produce have resulted in the common name of weeping boer-bean.

The sweet fluid from these spring flowers supports a wide variety of wildlife. Once pollinated by nectar feeders like birds and insects a thick flattened bean pod develops. This pod later splits to reveal several thick flattened seeds with a large fleshy aril.

The tree fuschia is not a common tree throughout its south African home range. This could be because it provides an easy food source for monkeys, baboons and birds. Black rhinos are also said to eat the bark of more mature trees. The blossoms, nectar, seeds and seedlings would be popular food items for many species of wildlife. In South Africa it is attractive to bees. I cannot speak to the taste of the honey.

The compound leaves are generally a medium green foliage with 4 – 8 paired leaflets per rachis with a wavy entire margin. New growth may show a reddish color in habitat. Many tree species do this. If tree is under drought stress it may be-

come partially deciduous. Bark is fairly smooth and light brown to gray in color.

The genus *Shotia* contains four species, all with different traits: *S. afra*, *S. latifolia*, *S. brachypetala*, and *S. capitata*. Some are solitary trunked and others multi-trunked.

In its home range *S. brachypetala* can grow to over 60 feet, but likely only to about 40 feet in our area, with a spreading

canopy of about half its height. This tree species is highly tolerant of a wide range of sub-tropical conditions. The occasional harsh frost will affect canopy foliage.

Many parts of the world with suitable soil and warm dry climates will allow *Shotia* to flourish. Travelers that recognize tree species will likely see this tree in Australia, Spain and southern California.

The San Diego Zoo has quite a few tree fuschia specimens of different sizes planted throughout the Africa

Rocks landscapes. It will be interesting to see how they develop.

The *Shotia* tree species is not listed in the Selectree database, so references should be sought online. We will need to see how it handles the invasive shot hole borer that is here.

Anyone considering this species as a unique patio tree or street tree should remember the sap flow will be a problem. When in full flower, it can produce sticky puddles on concrete or vehicles. Plan accordingly.



At top: The flowers are a rich deep red, and are produced in masses. The specific name 'brachypetala' means 'having short petals' in Greek and refers to the flowers, which are unique among *Schotia* species.

At left: *Schotia brachypetala* has a single trunk that sometimes branches low down.



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The '5-15-90' Rule

Dwayne Neustaeter, Arboriculture Canada

It could be argued that the most important aspect of tree felling is the 'escape route'. It is important to always have a planned escape route whenever falling a tree. An escape route is simply a pre-determined path of exit or retreat away from a falling tree. The escape route is considered and selected prior to cutting and preparations are made to clear the escape route by moving or cutting obstacles and brush that would cause the cutter to trip or stumble, or in any way obstruct or block the escape path.

Study of fatalities and injuries that have occurred when falling trees reveal that 90% of all fatalities or injuries to people when falling trees occur within 5 feet of where the cutting takes place, when falling a tree this occurs during the back-cut process. During the back-cut is when the faller is within five feet of the stump or trunk. Further investigation shows that of these fatalities and injuries they occur during the first 15 seconds from when the tree begins to fall.

What we can learn from this information is that the sooner and further a faller can distance themselves from the falling tree the better. In fact the sooner a faller is more than 5 feet from the stump or trunk the chances of being killed or hurt is reduced by 90%. This is a very significant statistic and

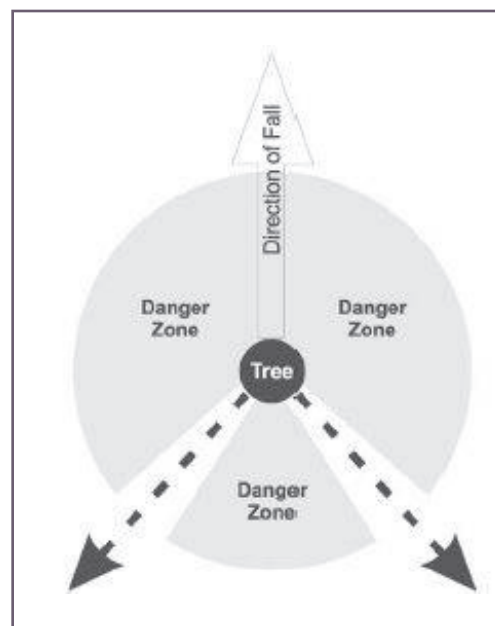
provides ample justification for selecting, preparing and using an 'escape route' whenever falling trees. This information is the basis for the '5-15-90 Rule'. By taking these statistics into account, or in other words; by learning from others mistakes, we can improve our safety when falling trees.

The 5-15-90 rule is a simple safety lesson: by retreating a distance greater than five feet from the trunk or stump within 15 seconds, we reduce our chances of being killed or injured by 90%.

Escape routes should be at an angle away from the direction of fall. This is because most objects such as limbs, dead tops or section of the trunk typically land right beside or behind the trunk or stump. This is due to the reactive forces created as the tree begins to fall and also due to the changes made in the way the force of gravity acts on the tree and its parts as it tips and begins to fall.

The angle for escape is important to consider. Escape routes should be at an angle approximately 135 degrees from the direction of fall or 45 degrees opposite the direction of fall. The specific angles are guidelines and rules of thumb, and not exactly measured but should be considered when selecting and preparing your escape route. Escape routes that are downhill should be avoided also as logs and trees can roll, also whenever possible get behind a strong barrier such as another tree. Select and walk the escape route prior to cutting or in other words do a practice run to ensure that it is free and clear of any obstructions.

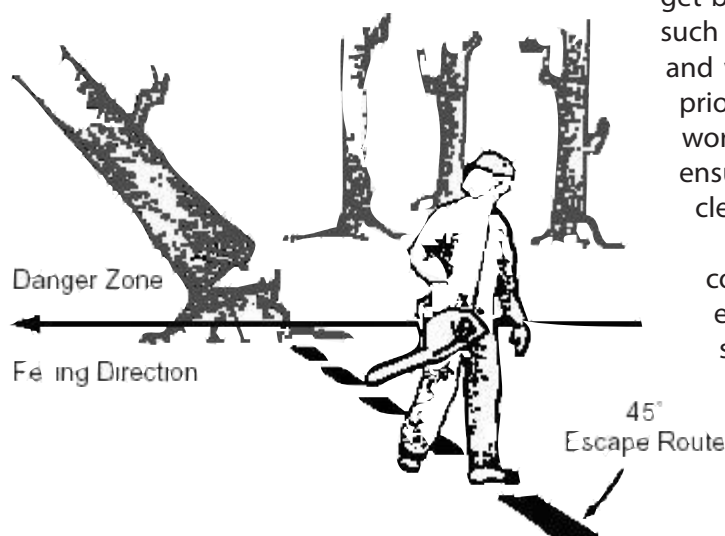
Another important consideration is to ensure that any bystanders are well clear of the drop zone; the best place for everyone else to be during the falling process is



two tree lengths whenever possible. This distance is derived from evidence that shows that tree parts that fall from a falling tree or that are explosively released upon impact can travel great distances but not usually more than two tree lengths. This is also why the faller should not stop retreating down the escape route after only five feet; it is safest to keep on making as much distance as fast as possible between you and the falling tree.

Remember always plan, prepare and practice your escape route when falling a tree and in doing so you improve your safety by 90%. My office recently received an e-mail from a past student, telling us that a family member was killed tragically while falling a tree. The student is an arborist who has attended our training and indicated that the main reason for the tragedy was that the 5-15-90 rule was not considered and no escape route was planned or prepared by the casualty.

It is wise to learn from others mistakes as we do not have enough time or lives to make them all ourselves. In sharing this information it is my intention to educate people who fell trees of dangers and certain realities in order to provide ways to help you avoid making serious mistakes or suffering tragic accidents.



LOCAL CALENDAR

Upcoming Industry Events

July 18

Western Tree Management Seminar
Pomona, CA
www.streettreeseminar.com

June 28, 2019

**Eucalyptus by Dr. Matt Ritter
and Dr. Jenn Yost**
L.A. Arboretum, Arcadia, CA
www.mattritter.net

July 29, 2019

TRAQ & TRAQ Renewal
Lakewood, CA
www.wcisa.net

August 9-11, 2019

International Tree Climbing Championships
Knoxville, CA
www.isa-arbor.com

August 11-14

ISA Annual Conference
Knoxville, CA
www.isa-arbor.com

August 13-14, 2019

CTSP Workshop
Arcadia, CA
www.tcia.org

August 16-17

PTCA Annual Seminar & Field Day
San Diego, CA
www.ptcasandiego.org

September 26, 2019

CaUFC Annual Conference
Growing Great Neighborhoods in CA
San Luis Obispo, CA
caufc.org

November 7-8, 2019

Desert Green XXIII
Las Vegas, NV
www.desert-green.org

November 13-16, 2019

CLCA Annual Conference
Lake Tahoe, CA
www.clca.org

UPCOMING PTCA MEETINGS 2019 SUMMER TREE WALK SERIES

JUNE

~~June 4, 2019~~
~~San Diego Zoo:~~
~~Africa Rocks~~
~~Dan Simpson~~

JULY

May 7, 2019
Escondido Park
Chris Gunther

AUGUST

May 7, 2019
Santee Lakes
Quint Driscoll

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