



MEMBERNEWS

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

MAY 2019

PO Box 796 | Orange, CA 92856

June 2019 PTCA Tree Walk Details

Join us for the first installment of the 2019 Summer Tree Walk Series. The first Tree Walk is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, beginning at 4:15 PM. We are excited to be returning to the San Diego Zoo, but just like last year, SPACE IS LIMITED.

This year, the San Diego Zoo Horticulture Staff will be taking us on a 'behind the scenes' look at the new Africa Rocks Exhibit. We will explore the tree tales behind many of this exhibit's landscape.

Plan to meet between 4:15 and 4:35 PM at the Lion Statue by the Main Entrance. After completing check-in of registered participants, we will enter as a

group at 4:45 PM. No entry for late arrivals! The Zoo closes at 6:00 PM and our group will need to be off grounds by that time.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, June 4! Remember, this is your best monthly opportunity for CEUs and a great chance to network with other tree-care professionals in the San Diego area.

Admission for this unique event will be comped for a limited number of attendees, and pre-registration is required. If you have a Zoo Membership, please let us know!

Please visit our website at www.ptcasandiego.org to register, or contact our office at 714.639.6516.

PTCA Summer Tree Walk Series June Tree Walk Details

Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Location: **San Diego Zoo**
2920 Zoo Drive
San Diego, 92101

Cost: Free for Members
SPACE IS LIMITED!

Register: www.ptcasandiego.org

Tree Walk Begins 4:45 PM
Arrive between 4:15 - 4:40 PM
NO ENTRY FOR LATE ARRIVALS

Scheduled Topic
Tour the Africa Rocks Exhibit
Dan Simpson & SD Zoo Staff

Highlights from this Issue

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Free registration, Limited seats



*When young, Phoenix canariensis develops into a wide ball shape before the trunk begins to stretch upward with age.
Read more on page 8.*

Page 6 TREE TIPS:
Tree Law: Who Owns This Tree?

Page 7 TREE OF THE MONTH:
Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*)

UPCOMING PTCA EVENTS

Volunteers Needed: PTCA 2019 Proper Tree Care Information Booth

The PTCA is still looking for volunteers to staff the booth at this year's SD County Fair. Shifts run from either 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, or from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Our booth dates are: Sunday, June 16; Friday - Sunday, June 21-23; and Monday - Tuesday, July 1-2.

Both the Friday and Monday morning shifts will ensure that the booth is properly set up. Stan B. will email photos of the booth setup to these volunteers, and he will handle the initial setup on Friday, June 14.

The Sunday afternoon shifts will ensure that the booth materials are stored and stowed away in the shelves/cabinets of the booth. Stan plans to work the afternoon shift on Tuesday, July 2, to remove the materials.

Volunteers will be assured 2 free passes into the fair per shift taken. Off-site parking is free, including a shuttle to/from the main gate on Saturdays and Sundays from both Torrey Pines HS and Mira Costa College. See sdfair.com for

onsite and Horse Park pricing.

This year, the booth will be outside the O'Brien Building, under the shade cloth where the Garden Displays are built. Other horticultural/garden organizations will be staffing our booth on the days that we aren't.

To volunteer, please contact Stan as soon as possible to secure a date that works for you. You can reach Stan by phone at 619.582.0168 or by email at treestan@cox.net.

Thanks for volunteering to spread the word about proper tree care to the public!

Stan Baczynski
Fair Booth Coordinator



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For membership applications
Please make request via e-mail
at ptca@epicentermgmt.us

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!

.....
OUR 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:

evansims@planitgeo.com

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
www.ptcasandiego.org

Happy May, Members!

Spectators watch history, but those who get involved can actually make history.

Back in 1985, local tree service operators in San Diego County saw the need to create an association of professionals to improve tree care knowledge. Those visionary arborists are responsible for the organization we know today as the Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego, or the PTCA.

Those original members managed their businesses and family commitments while still making time to develop the PTCA. Over the years, it has become a well-known and highly regarded organization of dedicated professionals. Now we need our professional members to step forward and make an investment of time and energy to continue advancing the

PTCA mission. Can you accept this handoff of responsibility?

Long time members who have already served are there to help if you are afraid of a fumble. As a team of professionals, we support each other to learn and grow. This is what has led to our success over the decades. Will you step up and accept this handoff or stay seated and watch?

Consider your choice of action and decide who benefits from that choice!

If you are interested in applying for the open Board President position, please send your information to Jim Thompson, members of the Executive committee, or email Heather at heather@epicentermgmt.us. The requirements and commitments for this position are listed below. We hope you'll consider serving this great Board!

JOIN THE PTCA BOARD

Five Reasons to Serve on a Nonprofit Board

Wayne Elsey, www.TopNonProfits.com

It may sound a little self-serving, but there's an easy way to advance your career and build your professional network while you're also doing good for others. Serve on a nonprofit board.

Of course, the primary reason you should serve on a nonprofit board is that you want to make the world a better place and you care about the cause. But, serving on a board and bringing your knowledge, energy, and expertise to the table is something that not only benefits the organization, but you as well.

Many reputable and leading charities have seasoned business leaders serving on their boards. That means that for those starting out in their careers, or perhaps wanting to get to the next level, serving as a nonprofit board member gives you the chance to meet and network with community leaders. The experience of working with senior executives at a nonprofit also brings a unique experience many junior professionals might not get for years—and that's the experience of closely working with seasoned business leaders.

Let's face it; most nonprofits operate with budgets significantly less than \$1 million. Many have budgets of under \$100,000. But, nonprofits have needs beyond just financial donations so they can become sustainable. Many rely on the expertise and knowledge of business and community professionals — especially board members — to help them advance their missions.

You can end up with the CEO of a major company working alongside you on a board committee. Additionally, many nonprofits have events, and this is another opportunity for younger professionals to network and connect socially with leaders in the community.

Build Your Network and Contacts

We all know you have a better chance to get ahead in your career if you have a good network of people and contacts. Since your fellow nonprofit board members will personally know you, they will be much more open and amenable to brainstorming ideas with you or even making introductions if and when you're looking for other business opportunities.

Diplomacy

You will have the opportunity to learn about dealing with others as it relates to issues of leadership, finance, and other business areas. Make no mistake; nonprofits are businesses—and there will be times where there will be disagreements. This experience of working with others in different areas will teach you about diplomacy and how to navigate potential landmines and delicate situations.

The Art of Persuasion

Nonprofits need money. The best nonprofits, even if they're small, will work closely with their board members to help them facilitate financial contributions. You're going to become comfortable in

asking for money. In other words, you're going to learn about the art of persuasion. It's a skill you should have in your career.

Meeting Management

When you serve on a nonprofit board, you will gain another career skill, and that's learning how to have a productive meeting with people who do not report to you. Again, dealing with people is an art. Many young people become managers, and they have team meetings, but frequently this is with people who work for them. Working at a nonprofit teaches you a valuable skill of managing individuals who don't work for you or that you manage.

Deep Dive on an Issue

You can learn a lot from a nonprofit about education, health, the environment, or whatever interests you. Nonprofit organizations are typically excellent at understanding the root cause related to the mission. If you want to dive deep into an area and know it well, a nonprofit board is a great place to help you gain insight.

In the corporate world, one of the key factors that senior leaders look at when considering promoting people is whether or not they have experience serving the community. Businesses want to be good corporate citizens, but they also understand the value and skills learned by professionals who serve on nonprofit boards.

May 2019 General Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Miguel Sibrian (*Vice President*), Ricardo Aguilar (*Secretary*), Dan Simpson (*Education*), Delia Juncal (*Epicenter Management*).

No Executive Meeting held.

Member Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

- Stan Baczynski announced that the PTCA will have a booth at the upcoming San Diego Fair. Tentative dates are: June 14, 15, 16; June 21, 22, 23; and July 1 and 2. Please sign up to volunteer if interested.
- Dan Simpson (Education) gave a upcoming schedule on speakers and education events.
- Ricardo Aguilar announced that there is South American Palm Weevil seminar at Sweetwater Summit Regional Park, June 17th, 2019. Registration is free, and very limited.
- Jim Thompson announced that Evan Sims, current PTCA President, is stepping down from the position. If anyone is interested or qualified, please let Jim know.

Speaker:

Ricardo Aguilar (*Aguilar Plant Care*)

- Ricardo Aguilar presented on the issues facing our trees due to the unusual weather and excess rainfall this Winter and Spring.
- Ricardo explained the disease triangle, and how the host and the pathogen can be in balance until the environment changes and begins to favor one or the other.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Meeting took place at Filippi's Pizza Grotto, Scripps Ranch, 9969 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego, on May 7, 2019.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Ricardo Aguilar.

PTCA PERSPECTIVES

May Meeting Summary

We had a good turn out with some new faces. There was no executive committee meeting this month, due to absences. Miguel Sibrian (Vice President) called the meeting to order and then started with an introduction of attendees.

Several members delivered announcements regarding upcoming events of interest and opportunities for involvement. Notably, we are seeking candidates willing and interested in serving as PTCA President. Being an engaged and active member is one way to achieve professional growth without the weekly scheduled classes in a college environment.

Dan delivered his usual welcome and update slide show. He covered details on the 2019 PTCA Summer Tree Walk Series, which will start next month. Dan also present the topics lined up for future meetings. Please check the PTCA website (www.ptcasandiego.org) for more details. Stan

B. reminded us about the San Diego County Fair at Del Mar fairgrounds and the need to represent the PTCA and our industry to the public.

June 17th is the date for the next session on South American Palm Weevil. It will be held in Bonita at the same place as last year. Register online.

FYI, we are still seeking a new permanent venue for future meetings. Ideally, we hope to find something that can accommodate more members and a better arrangement for delivery of visual presentations. Please send in suggestions to either Board Members or the Executive Committee.

Ricardo Aguilar of Aguilar Plant Care was our speaker this month. He spoke on the potential disorders and impacts of the excess rainfall we had this last season. Obviously weeds beneath trees will generate chemical treatments for control. But there is also the sucker growth from various trees species that will be in the same spray

environment. This can impact the health of adjacent woody plant species. Some refresher training on application practices and plant species ID may reduce the potential for damage.

Ricardo showed some images of a variety of foliage symptoms and discussed the different fungal and viral species. Several causal agents can be easily mistaken for others causing similar changes in appearance. The importance of lab tests was stressed as a means of confirming accurate diagnosis and treatment. We saw some good graphics on the disease triangle and how what we see on plants can be better understood.

When a host and a pathogen share an environment that favors one over the other, we see a change in plant appearance. Of course, we must also consider the life cycle and time of exposure too. Disruption or change to any of the elements can be part of a treatment or control plan.

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South American Palm Weevil Meeting

17 June 2019

3218 Summit Meadow Road,
Bonita, CA 91902



<http://www.sdparcs.org/content/sdparcs/en/park-pages/SweetwaterSummit.html>

Agenda

8:00am Registration for CE credits, coffee and pastries courtesy of Aguilar Plant Care

9:00am Mark Hoddle, UC Riverside. Overview of palm weevil invasion into San Diego, weevil, biology, ecology, and impacts

9:45am Ivan Milosavljević, UC Riverside. Review of weevil trapping methods for detection and control, summary of field experiments assessing the efficacy of different types of traps, baits, and yeast. Use of videography for determining and identifying differences in trap type efficacy.

10:30am Mohammed Alzubaidy, CDFA. Review of trapping and control programs for palm weevil invasions in California and latest updates on spread of South American palm weevil in San Diego County.

11:15am Brian Bruce, Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements. Review of pesticide evaluation trials for protection and control of palm weevil infestations in ornamental Canary Islands date palms in San Diego County.

11:45am Boxed Lunch Courtesy of UC ANR, UC Riverside, APC, WCA, and Rainbow Treecare Scientific

1:00pm Ricardo Aguilar, APC: Overview of landscape treatment options for weevil control

1:20pm Mike Palat, WCA: Overview of palm removal options, planning, and what to expect

1:40pm Field Trip to Sweetwater Reserve to view damage and discuss trapping and management

An application for Continuing Education Credits has been made

Register on line – Limited to 150 Attendees

<https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=27249>



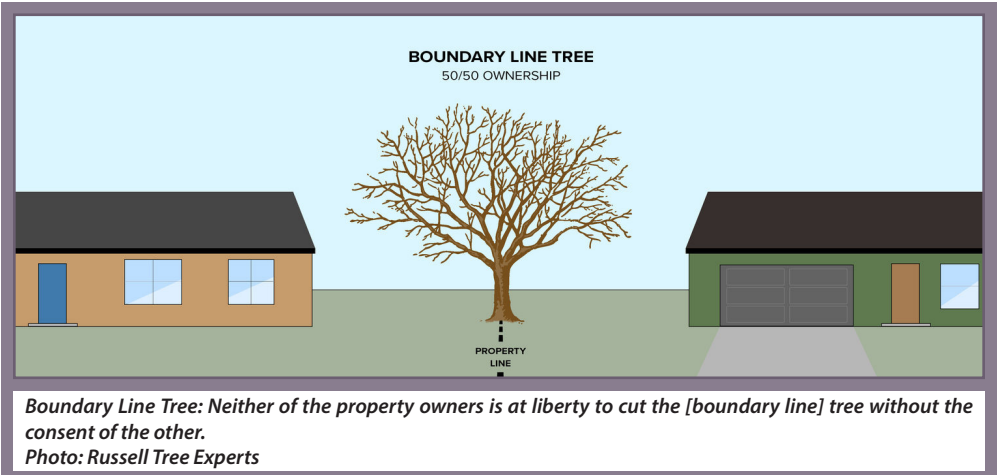
Tree Law: Who Owns This Tree?

Shari Russell, Russell Tree Experts

First and most importantly, I am not an attorney. What I am is a concerned business owner who has an interest in the law. Having recently read *Arboriculture and the Law* co-authored by Victor D. Merullo and Michael J. Valentine, I am inclined to share my findings in hopes of answering a few common questions we receive every year dealing with liability basics and the general risks associated with tree ownership.

"Who owns this tree?" is a question our company is faced with each and every day. Tree ownership is a big deal. Owning a tree makes one responsible for the potential (and actual) damage caused by that tree if it fails, but when? What about when trees fail in severe weather events or the most baffling, when a tree that shows no signs of stress or decay uproots and fails anyway? All these questions are even more challenging when a tree grows directly on a property line or is encroaching on a neighbor's property. If undesirable limbs, which originate from an adjoining neighbor's tree, hang over your property line, what rights do you have in removing them? According to the authors' research, some. "May I treat an ash tree to protect against the Emerald Ash Borer if the majority of the tree is located on my neighbor's property?" Good question. The answer: yes, and no.

Trees that grow directly on a property



line (split directly down the middle) are called boundary line trees and are owned by both property owners as "tenants in common." According to the authors, "neither of the property owners is at liberty to cut the [boundary line] tree without the consent of the other, nor to cut away the part which extends into the property owner's land if the injury would result to the common property in the tree" (Merullo, Valentine, 1992, p. 24). For instance, if one of the tenants in common is to perform work to the tree which results in death to the tree, that may lead to legal consequences initiated by the other tenant. So although it may be tempting, one cannot simply cut the tree down the middle without expecting one fierce legal headache. Often times

property lines are not clearly defined and it can be difficult for arborists to determine if a tree exists between two properties. When in doubt, before signing a tree contractor's contract accepting full ownership, speak to your neighbor(s) and get written permission prior to any work to a boundary line tree. Maybe offer them warm chocolate chip cookies first.

Tenants in common of boundary line trees must respect the joint ownership of the tree completely whereas a tree that is not directly on the property line has different implications. "It is generally held that when a neighboring landowner's tree limb hangs over an adjoining landowner's property, the adjoining property owner has

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May Meeting Summary

Fireblight is a bacterial contagion known to affect many plant species in the Rose family. A warm moist Spring will result in wide spread symptoms of scorched foliage on *Pyrus* species.

Anthracoze is another agent that causes foliar damage and bark lesions. This can appear as different damage patterns depending on the species involved. Our native sycamore's show mostly foliar damage due to the spring rains splashing spores onto newly emerging leaves. This then develops into what we see on the tree. Chinese elms will show the disease more as

lesions on the bark. Ash trees will show damage on the new foliage.

We also heard about some instances where *Xylella* was suspected, but lab tests confirmed it was not present and that the real culprit was actually root rot from *Phytophthora*. The use of a lab test for confirmation can provide details on treatment and prevent tree loss.

The excess rainfall added to regular irrigation cycles contributed to excess soil moisture which promoted *phytophthora* root rot. Advice here is to reduce the irrigation cycle in the winter and monitor soil moisture before

just adding water to the landscape. We shared some questions and discussion at the end for a good wrap up.

Know your plant species and how they look normally. Then learn what they are susceptible to when conditions and environment changes. This was a good presentation on the impact of our rain season and how this influences disorders with similar symptoms and the rush to judgement. Lab tests are very helpful with accurate response and treatments.

The 3 Most Important Types of Safety Communications

Did you know that safety and health information can be more effectively shared with your employees?

There is an important, complimentary role for safety briefings, safety training and safety education in your lawn and landscape business.

Safety Communication No. 1:

Safety Briefings

First, let's look at safety briefings and how they can be used to manage hazardous conditions that could expose workers to serious injury or illness. For many firms, safety briefings are a daily occurrence between crew managers and crew members. They are often reminders about company safety policies on topics like vehicle seat belt use, cell phone use while operating equipment or the wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE) at work sites.

A safety briefing can also be a warning about the potential for severe weather conditions during the work day. These would include storm warnings or the possibility of excessively warm weather, such as the onset of heat stress symptoms and how workers can prevent heat-related illnesses.

Safety briefings are short and concise. It is often a one-way form of communication between the supervisor and their crew members.

Safety Communication No. 2:

Safety Training

Differences between safety briefings and safety trainings are significant. While a briefing is a mostly one-way, crew manager-directed initiative, training should be interactive between the trainer and the trainee(s). Trainings should encourage hands-on activities, demonstrations of safe work skills and a commitment to behavioral change targeting safe work practices.

Other differences between safety briefings and safety trainings involves the timing of the information transfer and the person who coordinates the activity. A briefing is usually the job of a crew manager and may only take minutes, while training is generally much more intense. Experienced safety trainers should deliver

training on a regularly scheduled day of the week or month.

Plan safety training topics in advance of the training date and relate them to seasonal safety and health hazards. These are those you identify with input from insurers and employee safety committees. Training will also review recorded "close call" incidents.

Safety Communication No. 3:

Safety Education

Perhaps the most important information transfer component that closes the loop is safety educating. Our goal throughout this process is to:

- Provide reminders and warnings about safe work habits (briefings)
- Provide interactive sessions on enhanced safety knowledge and safe workplace behaviors (training)
- Ensure attendees retain the knowledge and adopt safe behaviors (educating)

Safety Communication:

Safety Program Evaluation

There are several important means for determining if the information transfer cycle (briefing-training-educating) is effective at your firm. We refer to this step as the safety program evaluation. First, it is important that you document all briefing and training activities. Confirm every employee who goes through safety briefings and trainings with his/her name and date

and the safety and/or health topic.

To measure effectiveness during training sessions, allow a minute or two to collect pre-training awareness and knowledge levels. Then do the same after the training. This is pre- and post-testing. Use the knowledge and skills gained at the end of the session to determine if you need additional training for all or some selected workers.

At lawn and landscape work sites, conduct worker observations to determine if critical safety recommendations are being followed post-training. For example, you may have recently trained employees on hearing conservation best practices and proper ear plug procedures. Upon observation of several work sites, you notice no one is using hearing protection or wearing ear plugs. After observing the post-training failure, you will likely schedule more training or deal with the PPE violation one-on-one with employees.

Remember these two important points when compiling your safety programs:

- Briefing, training and educating encompass a complete package that will afford your firm a legitimate opportunity at reducing safety and health workplace risks.
- Provide safety and health information in a language that your employees can understand.

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The Canary Island Immigrant (*Phoenix canariensis*)

Our Tree of the Month is the Canary Island date palm, *Phoenix canariensis*. This species is often referred to NOT as a tree but a palm. This immigrant from Spain's Canary Islands can be a big, tough and rough palm to grasp.

Those whose "man-card" bears the palm-climber punchmark can testify to the skills and lessons one learns when climbing and pruning these pillars of the sky. You get a double punch if you prune them with a sharpened spade rather than a chainsaw!

This iconic palm species is a tall, thick-trunked, large-crowned palm that, beyond the petiole base, has some serious long, sharp spines of over 8 inches just before the pinnae start. Yes, they can spike you back if you are not careful. The petioles, whether removed by saw or shed naturally, leave a characteristic diamond shaped scar on the trunk after they are removed.



The gender of these palms is determined by the inflorescence they produce. Male specimens show short pale wispy stalks to disperse pollen, whereas the females have long sturdy orange stalks that hold the ripening fruit. Male specimens are often selected for use in areas where seeds may create a slip hazard or result in seedlings below. It's seed production and adaptability has allowed it's spread from urban planting sites to areas like riparian corridors where it becomes a noxious weed.

Since the late 1800's, many of these once common palms have been installed in our urban landscapes. One design trend in the 1930's was to install them in front yards to frame the house and walks leading to the front door. Many installations are large mature palms since it takes years to develop. As such they have a greater value per trunk foot than a Mexican Fan Palm.

When young, they develop into a wide ball shape before the trunk begins to stretch upward with age. A single palm specimen may be 10-20 years of age before it stops spreading outward and begins to elongate its trunk. One way to estimate palm age of these palms is to determine linear feet of upward growth and divide by about 4-6 inches per year. That is about the height of two rings of fronds each year. Those calculations applied to a 50-foot Canary Island Date Palm will show it being about 30-40 years old.

But remember, cultural conditions can influence vigor and growth. Long lived palms and people both indicate how easy it is to misread a decade based on appearance. These palms also attract birds seeking food or shelter. Consequently we see seedlings from various Ficus species that have germinated and begun to grow in the old leaf bases at the top of the tree. Eventually the weight will pull down the developing trees which are only epiphytic and not parasitic.

Our California State champion *Phoenix canariensis* is located at San Jose

State University. It towers at a lofty 101 feet high, with a trunk circumference of 120 inches and a crown spread of 25 feet.

If these palms were once so common, where have all the biggest and oldest *Phoenix* gone? The biggest impact has been from the palm wilt fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *canariensis*. This was noticed in the late 1970's in our area when it began to take a large toll on mature established urban palms. Symptoms on the oldest fronds showed decline and death of one entire side of the pinnae. Internal streaks of necrosis and dark pink on cross cuts of the rachis were often an indicator of the disease. Confirmation was done through lab testing. The transmission vector is considered to be pruning equipment and cross contamination between palms. Tool sterilization with bleach or using dedicated blades for each tree was recommended.

A new threat to our skyline has arrived. It poses a real threat and control will be based on understanding and application of various measures.

On June 17th there will be a workshop on The South American Palm Weevil. It seems appropriate to provide some info about the local plant host for the SAPW. The documented host of this new pest is the Canary Island Date Palm, *Phoenix canariensis*, a native of the Canary Islands. Be sure you attend this event to get the latest information on threat and control measures.

Otherwise, our grandchildren will only have impressions of the once mighty *Phoenix canariensis* after they have been reincarnated as Cell Tower palms and become a new digital species better adapted to our urban environment, *Phoneix digitalarum*? LOL!!

For more information, you can reference Selectree at:

- selectree.calpoly.edu/tree-detail/phoenix-canariensis.

Additional reference link:

- ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/palm.html

Invasive Weevil Poses Huge Threat to SD Palms

Abbie Alford, Reporter, CBS 8 San Diego

A tiny insect is posing a huge ecological and economic threat to San Diego County. The South American Palm Weevil has made its way north from Mexico and is having a destructive impact on palm trees in the San Diego region.

Mark Hoddle Ph.D., is the director of Center for Invasive Species Research at the University of California Riverside. He said, "Long nosed weevils use their nose to drill a hole in the palm tree and females lay eggs in the tunnel."

There is no eradication, only control and most often too late for aggressive pesticides for the non-native palm tree.

According to Hoddle, ten percent of the palms die every three months at the Sweetwater Reserve in Bonita. "We are going to see hundreds, thousands of

Canary Island Date Palms die over the next couple of years," he said.

Hoddle, a leader in the research, guided news crews through the Sweetwater Reserve, known as the incubator. He has ten traps and says about 20 to 30 weevils a month are caught in each trap.

The insects are believed to have begun migrating from Mexico in 2011 to San Diego County. Hoddle said they spread to San Ysidro, Imperial Beach, Mission Beach to El Cajon – threatening a \$70 million ornamental palm tree industry.

Between the county, City of Imperial Beach and San Diego, about 20 infested trees have been removed. Residents are encouraged to save surrounding palm trees by having their infected ones

removed – a move that could most homeowners more than \$1,000. The infected palms also pose a hazard, the crown could fall causing damage.

The County Agriculture, Weights and Measurements said it plans to remove 50 infested Canary Island Palms from the Sweetwater Regional Park and is educating arborists.

A spokesperson for the City of San Diego said it is working with UC Cooperative Extension and recommends people use the Get-It-Done App to report dead or infested palms.

The University of California Riverside Entomology Department also set up a webpage encouraging people to learn more on the South American Palm Weevil and report dead or infested palms.

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Tree Law: Who Owns This Tree?

an absolute right to cut the tree limbs off the tree up to the property line" (Merullo, Valentine, 1992, p. 33). We often tell clients to imagine an imaginary vertical line (as if Luke Skywalker was pointing his lightsaber directly to the stars) running along the property line. All plant material that is on the client's side of the lightsaber, may be removed with confidence. However, a challenging issue we often face is the practicality of performing the tree work without the necessity of accessing the neighbor's (non-client's) property. We must respect private property and avoid trespassing at all times; as a result, there have been a handful of jobs we have not been able to commit to because the work could not be safely done without gaining access (and permission) to the adjoining property.

Even if one crosses every *t* and dots every *i*, some things are beyond all control. I have seen it first hand in my own woods; large mature trees which look perfectly healthy one day are lying on the forest floor the next. Nature is unpredictable even to the trained eye, however what I read in chapter ten of the book was reassuring: "the landowner is exempt from liability for injuries caused by trees resulting from

natural conditions, but the landowner will be responsible for injuries which the landowner could have taken measures to prevent" (Merullo, Valentine, 1992, p. 91). This is important because although some tree failures cannot be predicted, just like the weather, many are avoidable with the help of an educated, experienced arborist.

I recall a serious tree failure we saw a few years ago. A very large, mature Siberian Elm tree suddenly uprooted and slammed to the street blocking traffic in both directions. The reason the tree most likely failed? A paved driveway was installed too close to the trunk of the tree, cutting off and smothering the vital root system that exists in the top twelve inches of soil. It may take years before the compression from asphalt and the lack of water to roots from construction projects lead to catastrophe, which is a daunting reality for the unsuspecting homeowner. On a warm summer day after a night of heavy rain, the elm tree totally failed. By sheer luck (or perhaps a bi-conditional "act of God" ?), no one was injured.

Our team has collectively seen many unfortunate tree related situations which have helped us communicate the importance of knowing what it really means to own a tree.

There are a few simple measures a homeowner can take to demonstrate an awareness of the risks associated with tree ownership and by doing so hopefully eliminate a great deal of legal stress. For instance, learning how to properly protect trees during construction may mitigate the potential for tree failure under increased stress (from wind and/or ice) can be determined through a discussion with an experienced arborist.

Lastly, it may seem obvious that we begin all tree work with a signed contract from the person, company or municipality that hired us which states the client(s) have sole ownership of all trees listed on the quote however language clarifying this responsibility is not only to release Russell Tree Experts from liability, but because we recognize the work we do cannot be reversed. I hear Joe Russell often saying, "the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago." As avid tree lovers, we recognize and appreciate that adage more than most. Mature, healthy trees are highly valuable and hard to come by. A personal goal of mine is for each of our clients to be able to look out their windows, gaze at their gorgeous trees and smile. If that isn't possible yet, again with the cookies.

LOCAL CALENDAR

Upcoming Industry Events

June 8, 2019

**WCISA Tree Climbing
Championship**
Rocklin, CA
www.wcisa.net

June 17, 2019

SAPW Workshop
Bonita, CA
www.sdparks.org

June 27, 2019

Working with Cranes - Senna Tree
Arcadia, CA
www.sennatree.com

June 28, 2019

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

July 29, 2019

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

August 2, 2019

WCISA Women's Climbing Workshop
Applegate, 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

September 26, 2019

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