

# PTCA NEWS

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

## PTCA GENERAL MEETINGS

### November General Meeting - Tree Assessments in Paradise

#### **NOTICE TO MEMBERS – NEW MEETING SITE!**

*We have selected an alternate site for our September meeting. It will be at the Marie Callender's in La Mesa, address is 6950 Alvarado Road. This is right at the 8 freeway and 70th Street.*

Join us at Marie Callendar's in La Mesa for our November General Meeting, the last PTCA meeting of 2022!

The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance operates several Avian Conservation Centers in Hawaii. The Hawaii Endangered Bird Conservation Program operates the Keauhou and Maui Bird Conservation Centers, where they carry out propagation programs for Hawaiian forest birds, including the critically endangered 'alala. This work is part of a long-standing partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

Attendees will learn about the techniques and methods used to assess trees

at these facilities as well as the results and connections forged with Hawaiian arborists for future tree management plans.

November's speaker will be Raj Brown – Director of Horticulture at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

Meetings in 2022 will be free for PTCA members that register at least 24 hours in advance, and \$25 for members at the door. Non-member registration is \$30. We will be meeting at Marie Callendar's in La Mesa.

Registration can be completed on our website at [www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org).

Contact our office with questions at 714.639.6516.



#### **Monthly Meeting Details**

Date: Tuesday, November 1  
5:30: Executive Meeting  
*All Members Welcome*  
6:30: General Meeting

Location: Marie Callendar's  
6950 Alvarado Road  
La Mesa

Cost: Free for Members  
*(Pre-Registration Only)*  
\$25 for Members  
\$30 for Non-Members

**Tree Assessments in Paradise**  
*Raj Brown*

**Register Online**  
[www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

### Welcome Tina Stout, President and and Isaiah Standing Warrior, Secretary

For those who have wondered when we would be a whole family. The PTCA Board of Directors has been actively seeking candidates to fill several vacancies on the PTCA executive team. They connected with several potential candidates at the seminar and after discussion, they are proud to announce that ***Tina Stout has agreed to serve as President***. She has been a long term member of the PTCA and served as Secretary in the early years of the organization. She is a certified arborist and brings many years of industry knowledge and personal experience that she gained with One

Tripp Tree Service. She can handle the room and the duties even without her hoverboard! Yep that was her on the two wheeled transport at the Seminar Field day. We also have ***Isaiah Standing Warrior who has accepted the position of PTCA Secretary***. Isaiah also works at One Tripp Tree Service and recently became a certified arborist. Please welcome them both to their new positions and try not to disappear when they start looking for participants to assist with assignments.

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## CONTACT OUR OFFICE

714.639.6516  
[ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)

## WEBSITE

[www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rose Epperson, CAE  
[repperson@wcainc.com](mailto:repperson@wcainc.com)

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Heather Crippen  
[heather@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:heather@epicentermgmt.us)

Kathleen Falamino  
[kathleen@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:kathleen@epicentermgmt.us)

## MAILING ADDRESS

PTCA  
27537 Commerce Center Drive, #107  
Temecula, CA 92590

## MEMBERSHIP

Heather Crippen  
714.639.6516  
[heather@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:heather@epicentermgmt.us)

For membership applications  
Please make request via e-mail  
[at ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)

**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. The new meeting site beginning with the September General Meeting is Marie Callendar's, located at 6950 Alvarado Road, La Mesa. The cost to attend general meetings is free for members (*who pre-register*), \$25 for members at the door, and \$30 for non-members.

During the summer months, arboricultural tours ("Tree Walks") are featured throughout San Diego County. These are free to members and 25.00 to non members.

Information and registration for upcoming meetings is available at our website at [www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org).

CEUs are available!

## 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!](mailto:kathleen@epicentermgmt.us)

## Interested in Advertising?

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## VISIT US ON THE WEB!

[www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org)

## Golden Medallion (*Cassia leptophylla*), Go for the Gold!

Dan Simpson

This month the winner is the Golden Medallion for best in show, with yellow flowers, is *Cassia leptophylla*, also called the Golden Medallion tree.

This tree is seen around local streets and malls, as a small maturing tree from Brazil with golden yellow flowers. It is rated as utility friendly since it has a low potential for root damage and only reaches about 20 ft in height with an equal spread. The branches can become pendulous and rangy so judicious pruning with small heading cuts will help develop a stronger structure with a smaller rounded canopy. The branch strength of this species is rated as weak, so foliage and seed pod weight will need attention to prevent limb breakage. Be aware of pruning needs to avoid impacting the flower's appearance. Ill-timed pruning of terminal ends will eliminate blossom tissues before they can bloom.

For those who love a tree ID challenge, the leaves are compound pinnate with 1-2 inch leaflets in pairs of 9-20. Foliage color is glossy green on upper surface with a dull green underneath. Summer will bring forth the golden-colored clusters of blossoms on the terminal end of the branches. The flowers will later become seed pods with a rectangular shape in cross-section of about 1 inch and length from 1 – 2 feet long. When these long pods ripen in the fall, the seeds become loose in the pods. Adventurous kids will use them as noisy saber toys. Shake, rattle and whack?

This tree species grows best in sunny well drained locations and is tolerant of cold to about 25 degrees or short-duration freezes. Several of these were growing in front of the Automotive Museum in Balboa Park next to the elm pruning demonstration. There are several Cassia species that grow in Southern California. *C. leptophylla* is perhaps the most popular and reliable since it was introduced to the Los Angeles area in 1958. There are no pest or disease issues of note but that may be just a matter of time.

The genus name Cassia is also changing to Senna. The name Cassia originates from the ancient Greek name of Kassian, from the biblical cassian plants whose seeds and pods were used for medicinal purposes. But it is worth noting that references list the seeds and other plant parts as poisonous. As I learned in my career the poison is in the dose. Small amounts can be survived but larger doses are dangerous. Sennacot is a medicinal laxative available from pharmacy outlets and is based on senna and its properties. This does make for a fun tie in with the "go for the gold" title.



Information referenced for this was obtained from websites of Selectree and San Marcos Growers.

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## October General Meeting Summary

### Dan Simpson

The planned topic for the October mtg was originally to be fungus species and impact on local trees since fall is a good time to notice them. But we could not confirm in time to post on website. So we made a last minute substitution and got it posted to PTCA website. Erythrina species became the alternate topic. Dan Simpson shared images on the ID or species recognition as well as some management tips for the many coral trees that can be found in our local area.

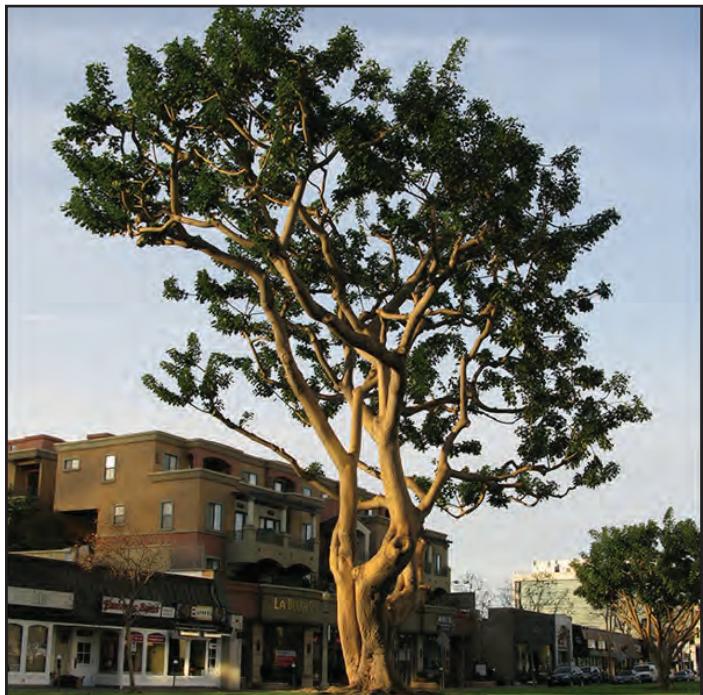
Globally there are over 100 different species to be found in a variety of habitats and regions. In our area, there are about 11 species that represent the genus *Erythrina*. They range in size from shrubs to taller trees. Thorns can be found on the trunks to the actual leaves themselves. Flower color and blossom shape vary depending on the home range. The new world tropical species like the Naked Coral with their tubular crimson blossoms are more suited to the long beaks of hummingbird pollinators. The African species like the So. African Coral with its short flexed open orange blossoms are useful for sunbirds with their short beaks to access the nectar.

All Coral tree species are listed as toxic but several members remember being fed the sweet red blossoms of coral trees when they were growing up in remote rural southern counties. The red bean seed is the biggest hazard with its concentrated alkaloids. The seeds if accidentally ingested will pass thru a digestive tract intact. Different structural shapes, bark textures and flower colors make these interesting landscape accents. Just avoid too much water since they grow very fast and trunk and large limb breakage will be a problem.

The large *E. caffra* along the San Diego Harbor are examples of large pruning cuts to reduce the rate of failure. Past trunk removals resulted in severe decay and failure. Ultimately, as per member contact about this project, these trees will be replaced with different species that require less heavy pruning and longer maintenance cycles. So species like the *E. crista-galli* dieback after flowering. This species well responds to pollarding but it must be done annually. Timing and tarps beneath the tree will help reduce the seed load which sprouts readily.

The main disorder of note is insects like the Erythrina Stem Borer whose larvae hollow out the apical stems and cause minor dieback of the last 6-8 inches of the stem. The toxins do not kill the larvae, but it does give them a reddish color. This should not have the impact that the Erythrina Gall Wasp did in Hawaii on the native coral there. This tree known as the Wiliwili was once a source of lightweight wood for surfboards. The impact of the gall wasp was so severe the population of native corals crashed dramatically. The answer for control was wasp wars. A predator wasp was introduced which focused

on the gall wasp and now the trees are growing back. Drought impact will result in challenges for new tree species to use in the landscape. There might be a coral tree worth consideration.



## Upcoming Tree Fund Webinar: Engaging Underserved Populations In Community Tree Management Activities



TREE Fund webinars bring you the latest in tree research, directly from the scientists themselves.

TREE Fund's one-hour webinars are free and offer 1.0 CEU (only for live broadcast) from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Society of American Foresters (SAF), the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) and sometimes the Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LACES). See webinar descriptions for specifics. Space is limited and pre-registration is highly recommended; in doing so, you'll receive a reminder email the day before the broadcast.

The next TREE Fund Webinar will be held on Tuesday, December 6. The topic is "Engaging underserved populations in community tree management activities", presented by Jason Gordon, PhD.

This webinar will be presented online at 12:00 PM (CST). ISA and SAF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS\* available for watching the entire live broadcast.

Get more information about this webinar and watch any of our previous webinars on our website at: [treefund.org/webinars](http://treefund.org/webinars). All TREE Fund webinars are archived approximately one week after broadcast.

Many thanks to our webinar host Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

## Important Survey for California Trees:

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# How Should Tree Service Businesses Manage Post-Storm Recovery?

By Tom Doherty



The tree care business is a challenging one. Routine tree maintenance is difficult enough that it requires specialized support crews and heavy machinery, and storms only add to this complexity, presenting new hazards and creating situations where tree service is essential for restoring local infrastructure. With the Atlantic hurricane season currently in full effect on the east coast, tree care businesses can expect to see an increased demand for their storm recovery services.

We'll explore some of the post-storm safety tips and strategies that tree services should employ, as well as discussing how regular tree maintenance can avoid difficult scenarios for recovery crews while mitigating property loss.

## **Post-Storm Safety Tips for Tree Service**

Tree service is critical to post-storm recovery efforts. By clearing roadways and making buildings and grounds safe for inhabitants, tree care businesses aid critical emergency support services and enable the return of necessary infrastructure to storm-wrecked areas. In addition to providing a safe environment to residents, removing potential tree fall hazards helps to also mitigate property & utility damages as well.

Utility management after a storm occurs is because these crews must contend with unstable trees as well as external hazards – like live wires – while also managing ongoing storm elements – like wind, water, ice and other debris – their jobs are especially challenging.

According to the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), there are several safety tips that tree care businesses must adhere to in these scenarios.

A crucial first step to preventing climbing injuries & tree

fall accidents is to first evaluate the job site and trees in the area. Tree service professionals should ask whether or not the tree can be saved by assessing major limb and branch damage. If any nearby property or utilities stand to be struck by a damaged tree, it goes without question that all potential hazards should be removed. However, if the tree only requires some minor pruning and remains relatively intact, tree professionals should work to restore it.

A central piece of safety advice for tree crews engaging in post-storm recovery is to:

- Avoid climbing whenever possible, in favor of using machinery.
- Climb trees only when they absolutely must.

Tree care businesses should rely on mechanized support from cranes, bucket trucks and skid-steer loaders. Keep in mind that bucket trucks should only be used to position workers appropriately, not to lift.

For instances where climbing cannot be avoided, crews should:

- Inspect the tree's structural integrity before climbing.
- Remove any broken or weak limbs that could create a potential climbing or fall hazard.
- Send the most experienced climbers up.
- Make support available from climbers on the ground.
- Maintain contact over the radio.

TCIA provided additional advice for staying safe during post-storm tree maintenance. Crews should not assume that down or pinned wires are dead. They should also anchor them before removing debris. The publication also recommended that crews from tree care businesses should

wait until nightfall to service trees that might house nests for bees, wasps or hornets.

Given the high risk factor, carrying the proper tree removal insurance is an absolute necessity when providing post-storm recovery. As a business owner, not only should you ensure the safety of your company, but carrying the proper coverage for your crew in the event of an accident or injury is vital as well.

It is recommended that you verify your policy limits will cover relief work in anticipation for a natural disaster. Understanding what your tree removal insurance policy will and won't cover will help to establish the safety plan your crew needs to navigate disaster recovery without injury.

#### **Best Practices for Post-Storm Tree Care Businesses**

The second installment in TCIA's series on post-storm recovery advice for tree care businesses included several best practices for workers to follow when they prepare for their jobs.

First of all, subjects who were interviewed by TCIA cautioned that tree care businesses should properly maintain their equipment and ensure their permits are updated at all times. That way, they're ready to go whenever they need to be.

When a storm is approaching, these companies should contact local dumpsites to verify the locations have extra capacity. The tree care business should also staff up and establish clear prioritization protocols for in-office workers so they can effectively handle the influx of calls.

When they head out into the field to conduct essential tree services, companies should prepare to be without common infrastructure for an extended period of time. This

means they should stock up on extra supplies like:

- Water.
- Food.
- Clothing.
- Fuel.
- Power.
- Lighting equipment.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE).

Crews should bring their newest vehicles in top working order and be prepared to camp as necessary for the duration of their job. Once they arrive on a worksite, they should first manage downed wires, then proceed to access trees and, if climbing will be necessary, assess the safety of those trees. TCIA also notes that on-the-ground situations can shift between when a tree care business is contacted and when they arrive, which requires workers to adapt and improvise.

#### **Ongoing Tree Maintenance Helps Mitigate Against Loss**

In order to make post-storm work easier and prevent damage from occurring in the first place, regular tree maintenance is important year-round.

A KLT report noted that monitoring for signs of decay, as well as regular pruning, can help property owners avoid damage during a storm. The story also recommended planting trees a safe distance away from buildings.

#### **About Tom Doherty**

*Tom serves as the Senior Vice President of Specialty Programs with over 12 years of experience in the insurance industry, specializing in the business development and client growth sectors. Tom earned his degree in History & Economic at Monmouth University.*



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## Two New Detections Highlight the Constant Threat of Invasive Insects



*Emerald Ash Borer*

Two recent discoveries highlight the ongoing challenge of invasive insects in the West.

The first, in June, was the discovery of an established emerald ash borer population in Forest Grove, Oregon - the first detection of the pest on the West Coast. The wood-boring pest, native to China, has killed some 100 million ash trees in the United States since it was first detected in Michigan in 2002 and then rapidly spread to 35 states and as far west as Bolder, Colorado.

Against the urging of as-not-yet-infested Western states, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ended its emerald ash borer quarantine in January 2021, allowing the movement of ash wood, ash wood products and hardwood firewood between infested and uninfected areas.

APHIS explained its decision in a Q&A publication:

"The quarantine has been unsuccessful at stopping the spread of this invasive pest. By removing the domestic quarantine regulations, APHIS can redirect available resources toward rearing and releasing tiny wasps to serve as biological control agents."

Oregon State Extension has an updated emerald ash borer web page posted, with the latest news and identification and reporting information, including some pages in Spanish: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/eab>.

In California, the news was slightly better but still worrying. In July, at a California Department of Food and Agriculture border inspection station in Truckee, a mass of spotted lanternfly eggs were found in a load of firewood that had been hauled from New Jersey to California.

That invasive insect was first detected in the United States in 2014 in Pennsylvania and has spread throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region and into the Midwest. It's a



*Spotted Lanternfly*

significant economic threat to the West as its host plants include grape, hop, apple, stone fruit, almond and walnut.

Here's the APHIS webpage on the spotted lanternfly: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/hungry-pests/the-threat/spotted-lanternfly-spotted-lanternfly>.

### Upcoming WCISA Webinar

#### Urban Deforestation: What Do We Know & What Can We Do?

Featuring Matthew Wells - Presented on Zoom



Wednesday, December 7, 2022

8:00 am - 9:30 am

Registration

\$25.00 - WCISA Member

\$35.00 - Non-Member

[wcisa.net/events](http://wcisa.net/events)

1.5 ISA CEU

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## Workforce Development efforts take root in San Diego

Tree San Diego was fortunate to be selected as a panelist at the most recent annual PTCA event to discuss workforce development and the different career pathways within the urban forestry sector. These events and discussions are crucial to facilitating the transfer and development of knowledge to ensure our efforts to improve our community's quality of life through our urban forests are effective. Our Treejectory+ project was designed as a multifaceted education and workforce development program to help answer the call for more qualified urban foresters, educators, and tree stewards. Members of our team including staff, board members, interns and Climate Action Corps Fellows were in attendance at the PTCA Conference to sharpen their knowledge about the importance of urban forests and how to care for trees, learn from industry professionals, and gain access to hands-on training that will help develop their expertise in the field.

Feedback from conference attendees helped to enlighten our Tree San Diego team about the current demand for urban forestry careers. Of the most common observations heard at the PTCA Conference was the fact that there is a gap in generational interest for sector job and that workforce development programs need to do more to create accessible, well-rounded exposure to forestry initiatives, climate change mitigation projects, and tree care and nursery business operations. This is where Treejectory+ comes into play with partners from throughout San Diego County, providing a robust curriculum through which cohort candidates will be paid to train and learn more about the needs of the industry and valuable career opportunities.

Learn more at [www.treesandiego.org/treejectory](http://www.treesandiego.org/treejectory)



### First Co-Hort Graduated on September 27th

Urban Corps through their CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Workforce grant called Tree Corps with grant partners Tree San Diego and their CAL FIRE workforce grant, Treejectory+ came together to support the first pilot for 10 Urban Corps Corpsmembers. During the month of September, Corpsmembers participated in fieldwork and classroom activities including drivers education, receipt of their drivers licenses, if needed and fall protection training through the San Diego Continuing College Foundation. On September 27, all 10 Corpsmember graduated through all coursework and we celebrated with an event that included opportunities to network and complete mock interviews with our employer partners Davey Resource Group, West Coast Arborists and Atlas Tree Service. An Urban Corps prior graduate who is currently working at Atlas Tree Service also came to share his experience.



## Saluting Branches Day of Service

The 8th Annual Saluting Branches Day of Service was held on September 28, 2022. The largest one-day volunteer event in the tree industry! The 2022 event had over 2,300 volunteers donate their talents and services to the caring of trees at 88 veteran properties. Events took place in all 50 US States and for the first time had an international presence in Mexico City. Several PTCA Member companies took part in the day of service. Lead volunteer, Joseph Eves from Coastal Tree Care, stated that 20 volunteers came out this year. They pruned palms, elms and eucalyptus trees.

Originally created by Rainbow Treecare, Saluting Branches is now established as a 501c (3) non-profit organization dedicated to recognizing and honoring our veterans. We are deeply appreciative of the brave men and women who serve and have served in our military making it possible for us to have the freedoms we enjoy every day.

"We developed Saluting Branches as a green industry project to honor veterans and improve the environment through the science of tree care," said Brian Bruce, Saluting Branches president. "This is an important event for the arborist community and allows us to give back to those who have served us."

Visit [www.salutingbranches.org](http://www.salutingbranches.org) to get involved with Saluting Branches. There are volunteer, donor and partner opportunities available for both industry and non-industry supporters.



Photos courtesy of Javier Quiroz, San Diego Zoo Safari Park and Joseph Eves from Coastal Tree

## Annual Seminar and Field Day

Our 33rd Annual Seminar and Field Day turned out great! The support of the sponsors and hard work of the seminar committee really shined through during the two-day event. We had 232 attendees for Friday and 301 for Saturday. We had a very diverse speaking schedule with something for everyone.

One attendee said, "The seminar hosts really showed their care to meet their attendees needs through keeping the lectures on schedule and ensuring that lunch options accommodate everybody's food preferences and tolerances." Another added, "the seminar and field day offers something for every level of experience, every type of arborist, and importantly in more than one language. Everyone is included, and everyone can learn something here. I really hope you guys can keep doing these events and making them so accessible for all members of our industry."

A special thank you goes out to Albert Sais and the City of San Diego for their support of our programming each year. We look forward to seeing what the program committee dreams up for 2023.



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