

PTCA NEWS

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

PTCA LEADERSHIP NEWS

PTCA Leadership Team Updates and Retreat

Saturday, December 2nd, 2022

7:00 AM-1:00 PM

PTCA will be holding our annual leadership retreat on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at the West Coast Arborists office in La Mesa.

The agenda topics are:

- Vision for the coming year
- How do we increase membership?
- Combining the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee
- Succession planning for Board of Directors and Executive Committee Members
- Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Cost: Free

Location: WCA South San Diego Office, 8163 Commercial Street, La Mesa

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A little about me...



As a native San Diegan, my heart's in San Diego. I have been with One Tripp Tree Service since 1991, and an ISA Certified Arborist since 1995. I was a past PTCA Secretary and have always been involved with PTCA in one way or another. Many of you may recognize me as the photographer at the Seminar/Field Day events. I look forward to expanding our membership, educating the masses and caring for our urban forest. I also look forward to meeting many of you at one of the upcoming events.

Tina Stout, PTCA President

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Brad Brown has resigned from his Treasurer position on our Executive Committee. We extend our thanks to him for his years of service in this position.

At this time, we have open positions for Treasurer on the Executive Committee and for Chief Financial Officer on the Board of Directors. Please submit nominations for consideration.

The seminar committee and the Exec team are conducting the review of our annual seminar. It ain't over til the paperwork gets done. This was our 33rd annual seminar and each year this event gets larger attendance. There will always be items that we can improve and all responses and comments are carefully considered and integrated into the next event.

There will be no monthly meeting in December.

The January monthly meeting date will be moved to the 10th of January. This is to reduce impact on attendance from the News Years holiday. Our topic will be presented by Kurt Peacock. He will provide an overview of fruit tree pests and disorders. The 14th annual Fruit Tree Workshop will be held on January 14th at Stein Family Farms.

"Ideas are like seeds! They require space, opportunity to grow, energy and some hands on nurturing to reach their potential. In 1985 the PTCA founders created an organization we celebrate and admire. How?" - words to ponder courtesy of Dan Simpson.



Monthly Meeting Details

Date: Tuesday, January 10
5:00: Executive Meeting
All Members Welcome
6:00: 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

Pests & Diseases of Fruit Trees
Kurt Peacock

Register Online
www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org

Highlights from this Issue

Tree of the Month:
Page 3 Black Gold (*Acacia melanoxylon*)

November Meeting Highlights: Tree assessment in Paradise
Page 4

Seminar Redux:
Page 6 Urban & Community Wood - Jeff Carroll
Seminar Redux:
Page 8 Southern California Pest Update - Dr. Bodil Cass

Page 10 **14th Annual Fruit Tree Workshop**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chuck Morgan
Brian Bishop
Mike Poffenberger
Pete Ryken

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Tina Stout
Vice President: Miguel Sibrian
Secretary: Isiah Standing Warrior
Treasurer: Vacant
Education Chair: Dave Ephron
Hispanic Chair: Miguel Sibrian
Membership: Gabe Jarvis
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Falamino

CONTACT OUR OFFICE

714.639.6516
ptca@epicentermgmt.us

WEBSITE

www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rose Epperson, CAE
repperson@wcainc.com

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Heather Crippen
heather@epicentermgmt.us

Kathleen Falamino
kathleen@epicentermgmt.us

MAILING ADDRESS

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

MEMBERSHIP

Heather Crippen
714.639.6516
heather@epicentermgmt.us

For membership applications
Please make request via e-mail
at 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.



.....
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.

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!

Interested in Advertising?

Please Contact:
heather@epicentermgmt.us

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org

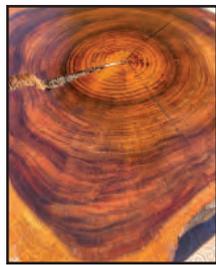
Black Gold (*Acacia melanoxylon*)

Dan Simpson

It is very worth noting that there is increasing interest in repurposing the wood of urban trees to preserve the carbon held in their wood. There is a tree species growing in Southern Calif that woodworkers have referred to as Black Gold. This is because of the quality of the wood which is very much like the beautiful wood from the prized Hawaiian koa. The *Acacia melanoxylon* is also known as blackwood acacia because of its dark heartwood or because some say it stains workers' hands black from handling it. This timber-producing species is native to southeastern Australia, but is well adapted to our local soils and mild climates. It has a fast growth rate while young that can be well over 3 feet annually, and more with good conditions and reaches an estimated height of over 50 ft. The canopy of this tree is about 20 feet in diameter. It does manage to contribute enough energy to develop a trunk diameter of nearly 5 ft in Australia. Here we may only see the oldest and longest trees producing such useful diameters. Hopefully any trunks reaching that diameter are often salvaged and sawn into thick slabs or other useful sizes and dimensions for many woodworkers to create valuable furniture or artistic objects. But before you decide to plant any of your available acres with black acacia seedlings for future harvest you should know that in California this species is being listed as a potential invasive species. It may not be worthy of a grant to fund its future production. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) maintains a species list and has a rating system. It is worth exploring what it contains. The San Francisco Bay area is very different from ours here. It is a wetter habitat that provides conditions for this species to grow in undesired locations.

This *Acacia melanoxylon* has been grown in California since the late 1880's but is less widely planted these days. In 1935, at the San Diego Exposition in Balboa Park, black acacia was among the tree species planted as a backdrop to some of the Spanish-style buildings. Most of the older specimens have been replaced by younger trees. Those of you who actually visit the park to see what tree species it contains, will see it represented. If you know this *Acacia* species you may still see old specimens existing as street trees or in yards or parks. The black acacia has been noted as having a high potential for root damage to concrete sidewalks. The density of the canopy and a weak branch structure certainly lead to limb breakage usually during wet and windy weather. These are two issues that influence the reduction of this species in the species populations of the urban forest.

The Black Acacia is easy to recognize when viewed. The bark is hard, dark grey, fissured, and scaly. The round staminate blossoms which appear in late winter to spring are cream to white in color. They are not really noticeable in contrast to the evergreen dark green-grey foliage. These



leaf-like structures have modified stems called phyllodes in place of actual leaves. The true leaves are very tiny and usually seen on young foliage. The blossoms become typical flattened legumes, holding black bean-like seeds with orange fleshy arils. These bean-like pods turn a dark brown and dry into curled shapes to release the seeds. Many species of wildlife consume the seeds or the arils as food.

Yes, as an urban resource this acacia can have more than environmental value. An innovative arborist might just be interested in some of the trees growing in yards and along the streets of our communities. Gold in California? These days that may appeal to arboreal entrepreneurs who can identify opportunity and associated value. There is some blackwood gold that can be found by those who recognize it and have the ability to get it to those artisans who preserve its stored carbon. Carbon stored is carbon saved.

Any of you who are looking for more detailed information online will certainly find it on the usual Selectree website.

November General Meeting Summary — Tree Assessments in Paradise

Dan Simpson

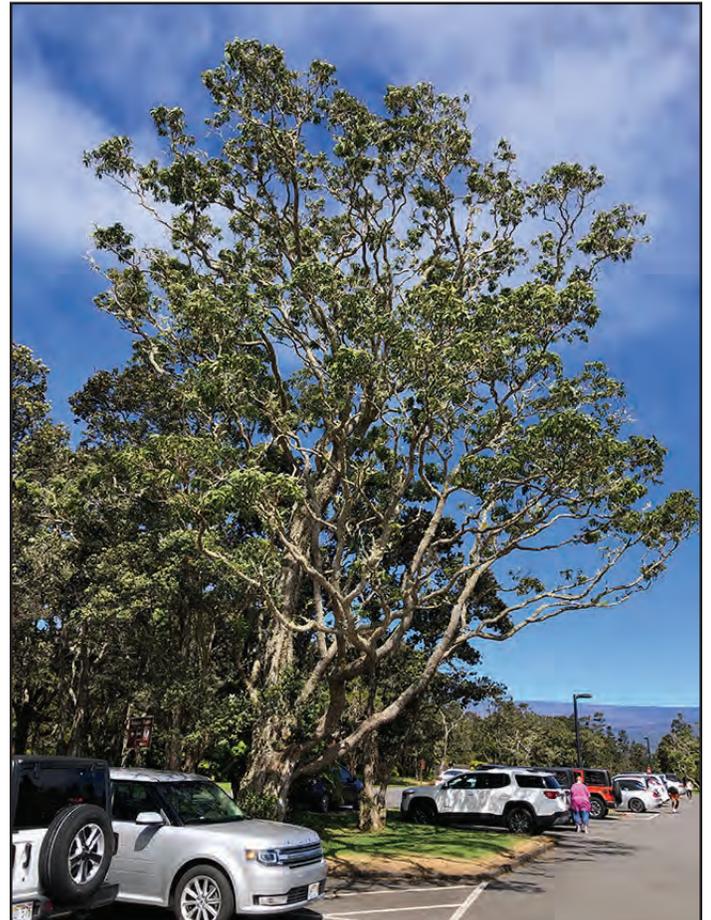
Raj Brown, Director of Horticulture at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, was our guest speaker at this month's meeting. The subject of his presentation was on Tree Risk Assessment at some of the Avian Conservation facilities on two of the Hawaiian Islands. He coordinated and participated in this project aided by two Safari Park arborist team members, Javier Quiroz, and Joe Wurzel. The task was to document and prioritize tree risk, train site members on saw use and establish local arborist connections for future needs on site. These conservation facilities are managed by the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, the conservation and research division of what many of us know as the San Diego Zoo.

The San Diego Zoo which began in 1916 in San Diego has many aspects that are less familiar to the public. Since it began, it has indeed morphed into an incredible organization that seeks both to educate people about the plights of endangered species and also to actively engage with efforts toward their preservation.

The Avian propagation facilities in Hawaii are directed towards the conservation of three bird species, the Alala (Hawaiian Crow) which is no longer found in the wild, the Palila and Akikiki, two honeycreeper bird species which live in the understory of forest. The threats are largely due to habitat loss and biological threats like the mongoose. These conservation facilities are for the reproduction of these endangered birds for wild release and biological study. For those who remember the Condor success story a wild population can suffer devastating losses without

scientific assistance. San Diego's mission to preserve those and increase their wild population was an incredible success. The concerns with tree failure are due to storms which can cause severe impacts to the holding cages. There were two tree species of concern that grow around the conservation sites.

The Koa and the Ohia both are important cultural resources for the Hawaiian people. These trees also serve as habitat anchors and provide critical wildlife support. They are tall long lived forest species with one Ohia tree on site estimated to be at least 500 years of age or older. One factor that contributes to tree failure potential is the



shallow layer of organic soils that overlays the volcanic substrate. This restricts root systems from deeper anchorage and makes the tall trees easier for winds to uproot these shallow root plates. The 140 plus inches of annual rainfall on these shallow volcanic soils promotes rampant growth of a tropical Kikuyu grass which has thick runners and spreads widely. This ground coverage obscures the occasional lava tube opening which are often filled with water.

Habitat tree survey work can be exciting. Joe is a competition climber and was able to physically inspect some of the trees. Drones were used to inspect codominant attachments and upper structure that could not be access safely by climbing. Risk categories and species failure patterns were established with input from local arborist contacts. They have specialized knowledge and experience with the different native trees. Chainsaw equipment was evaluated and replaced by newer battery power saws, PPE and operator training was conducted for in house staff at the facility. These individual facility staff would after all be the first responders in a storm response scenario. It was an ambitious project but in their single week on site the Safari Park Team did produce a survey of nearly 100 trees. These were plotted on GIS mapping program with risk priorities and action plans in a concise format for future work to be bid by local arborists who met qualification criteria. Future facility budges will certainly benefit from this development of standards. After our meeting many of the members in attendance shared positive comments about this presentation.

Many thanks to Raj Brown and his Safari Park arborist team for their conservation support in Hawaii and in sharing a new direction for arborist skills.

Upcoming Meeting:



ISA
2022

VIRTUAL EVENT

13 - 14 DECEMBER
SCAN THE CODE TO REGISTER TODAY!



**POWERFUL
AGILITY**

The Vermeer compact articulated loaders are designed to meet the need for a highly maneuverable, versatile machine while having an added benefit of low turf disturbance. The multi-tool attachment plate will allow you to tackle a variety of jobs.

Vermeer

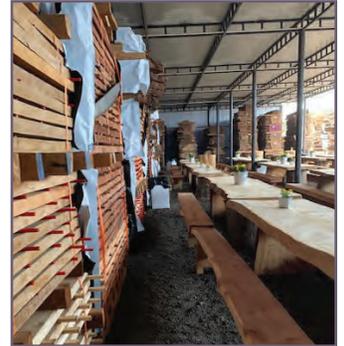


Call 866-987-2543 to schedule your demo.
RDOVermeer.com

Vermeer and the Vermeer logo are trademarks of Vermeer Manufacturing Company in the U.S. and/or other countries. © 2022 RDO Equipment Co. All Rights Reserved.

Why We Need Products From Urban And Community Wood

By Jeff Carroll, Co-Founder, Urban Wood Economy, Inc.



Most people embrace the concept that earth's climate is changing from the production of greenhouse gasses like carbon-based CO₂ (carbon dioxide). As a result, the globe is getting hotter, and the consequences trumpeted by many players. We need solutions, and the folks in and around the tree care industry know few things on the planet can capture and sequester carbon dioxide like trees.

Government and private sector leaders alike are concluding one of the best things humans can do is to put more trees in the ground: Creating an army of conifer and deciduous carbon capturers. That is great if everyone remembers eventually every tree soldier fighting the carbon war will one day die from storm, disease, accident, or just old age. Currently, when trees in the urban, suburban, and even rural areas come down, that tree is likely to be taken to the landfill. There it rots or is incinerated, and all the carbon held prison in its fibers are freed to bind with oxygen which further attacks the ozone layer. This is the outcome of a

linear approach to urban and community wood.

Urban Wood Economy is looking for ways to bend that straight line approach into a circle. Diverting removed trees from landfills to an aggregation facility where it enters a manufacturing process and comes out as carbon capturing products like lumber or biochar enables trees to continue in the war against greenhouse gas emissions. A circular, versus linear approach the tree's entire life cycle makes it possible to put more trees in the ground and enable them to continue providing products and services long after they have stopped providing shade and other vital services to people and wildlife.

There are many local operations which are salvaging wood from arboricultural activity, but the collective effort is not enough to materially impact our carbon crisis. Urban Wood Economy is proposing the development of high-volume milling and biochar making facilities in key cities or urban areas across the country. Each region will have its own mix of product opportunities. Some will be lumber focused, other will be biochar focused, but all will be looking for ways to reach a zero-waste state and capture the wood-based carbon in one product or another.

I hope it seems obvious by now -- but let me say it plainly. If we don't develop a robust supply chain for urban and community wood utilization, then within the next 50 to 100 years all the effort to plant trees to capture carbon and reduce the impact of climate change will be undercut. Those trees will come down and release their carbon, contributing in greater ways than ever before to our waste and greenhouse issues. But local players like Tree San Diego, West Coast Arborists, Agriservices, and Taylor Guitar are pushing the potential of large-scale urban wood utilization and work together to raise the bar on carbon capture, waste reduction, and job development. Its time. Even past due.



ASCA Consulting 2023 Academy

February 7–10
Hyatt Palm Springs
Palm Springs, California

Early registration ends: **Tuesday, January 10, 2023**

New Year's Resolution:

Become a Registered Consulting Arborist®

Here's a New Year's resolution that you'll definitely want to complete—earn the RCA in 2023. Your first step is to register for ASCA's Consulting Academy — the most comprehensive training experience for arborists who consult.

The Consulting Academy Is an Investment That Pays Off.

1. You'll be one step closer to earning your RCA—the highest achievement a Consulting Arborist can attain.
2. You'll learn the skills necessary to develop or expand a thriving consulting practice.
3. You'll increase your earning potential.

Earn Your RCA in 2023

Register now and save at www.asca-consultants.org/page/CA2023



Co-Sponsors:



Annual Silver Sponsors:



Annual Bronze Sponsors:



THE PREFERRED CHOICE



BANDIT



MAKE THE SWITCH with Cal-Line Equipment



www.cal-line.com

Livermore, CA
925-856-4125

Sacramento, CA
916-891-1846

Santa Fe Springs, CA
562-684-6468

Southern California Pest Update

by Dr. Bodil Cass, Agricultural Scientist, Entomology, County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures



Photo: Pine tortoise scale favors new growth of some pine species, especially stone pine. Photo credit: Nicole Orsi.

The County of San Diego Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory in the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures, serves an integral role in the regulatory activities that protect local agriculture and the environment. The lab works directly with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and County Apiary, Integrated Pest Management, Nursery Inspection, Pest Detection, Pierce's Disease Control, Pest Exclusion and Quarantine programs, to rapidly detect, identify, and respond to invasive pests. The lab processes approximately 8000 samples per year and responds to approximately 1000 inquiries through the public email, front desks, and toll-free phone line.

The most frequently intercepted pests are hemipterans in the families of Diaspididae armored scales, Coccidae soft and wax scales, and Pseudococcidae mealybugs that are highly polyphagous and distributed in more tropical states of the USA and in other countries. These small hemipterans can be especially difficult to detect, identify and treat. Many have a waxy shield, covering or filaments that protect them from predators and pesticides and often help them blend in with the plant bark or leaf veins. The adult females are wingless and sessile, causing damage by extracting plant phloem and excreting honeydew. Infested plants may experience loss of vigor, spots on foliage, deformation, leaf drop, and dieback. Regular scouting for signs for sooty mold can help with early detection of scales and mealybugs. A-rated Magnolia white scale *Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli* and Lesser snow scale *Pinnaspis strachani* are armored scales regularly found on incoming nursery shipments on plant leaves and fruit and pose a serious threat to ornamental and other plants.

In the past year, arborists submitted several suspect insects for identification, including two that were first records in the state. Pine Tortoise Scale, (*Toumeyella parvicornis*, Hemiptera: Coccidae) is of particular concern. This soft scale is native to the Eastern US and had not been

previously detected on the West Coast. It feeds on several species of pine (*Pinus* spp.), especially stone pine. It causes damage through direct feeding and secreting honeydew, which serves as a substrate for sooty mold growth, leading to die-back. In the last few months, we have received samples of pines infested with this scale from various locations in San Diego County. We are conducting a survey to determine the extent of the infestation and working with the University of California Cooperative Extension and treatment response plan. The California Department of Agriculture gave this pest an A-rating, indicating it could cause significant economic and environmental impacts if it becomes established in the state.

A stinkbug, *Pellaea stictica* (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) was found by an arborist on an orchid tree (*Bauhinia* sp.) at a residence in San Diego County. It was subsequently detected in Los Angeles, at more locations in San Diego, and additional records were noted appearing on the iNaturalist web site from Orange and Riverside counties. It has been reported from throughout the Americas, and feeds on pods, leaves, and stems of its hosts, which include plants in the Bignoniaceae, Fabaceae, Oleaceae, Solanaceae and other Families. The California Department of Agriculture conducted an assessment of potential impacts, and in this case determined a C-rating indicating that this insect poses little risk to California agriculture or environment.

The state is on high alert for spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*, Hemiptera: Fulgoridae). This large planthopper is native to China and was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014. It has spread to several states on the East Coast but has not yet been detected in California. The spotted lanternfly is

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

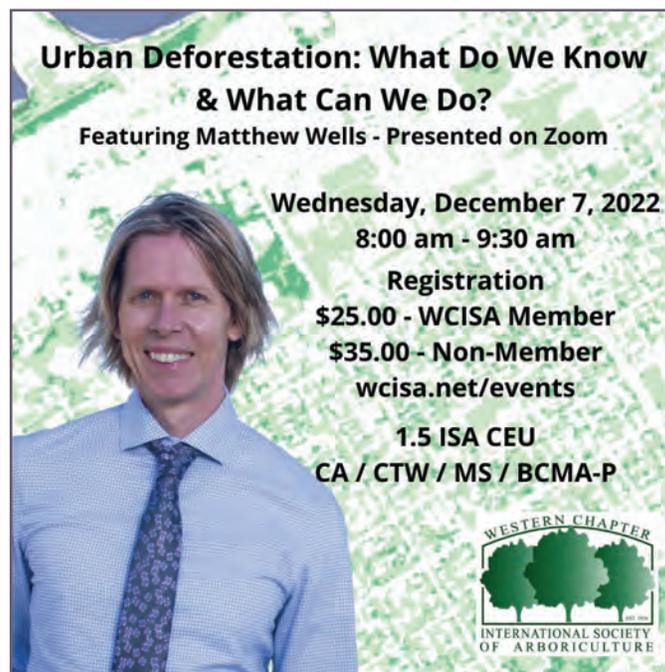
\$25.00 - WCISA Member

\$35.00 - Non-Member

wcisa.net/events

1.5 ISA CEU

CA / CTW / MS / BCMA-P



univoltine (producing one brood of offspring per year), hemimetabolous (having no pupal stage between larva to adult stages) and moves mostly by hopping/jumping. Its attacks a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees, with tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) being one of its preferred host plants. The A-rated spotted lanternfly is considered a significant agricultural and landscape nuisance pest threat to California, especially for grape, orchard, and logging industries, due to its potential for direct plant feeding causing weeping/oozing and honeydew excretion that leads to sooty mold. The Pest Detection team at the County of San Diego conducted a visual survey of 50 tree-of-heaven sites across the county over the summer and did not detect any spotted lanternfly infestations. The most likely mode of entry into the state is via movement of its mud-like egg masses, which are found on tree bark, outdoor equipment, and other surfaces in infested areas.

Please continue your diligence in looking out for these and other new pest species. Detection of invasive pest species in the county often comes through industry members, including growers, pest control consultants, and arborists. Your commitment to be informed about the current pest concerns, and curiosity for observing new insects out in the environment, helps to keep our agriculture and environment healthy.

Contact us:

Email: Labs.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov

Toll-free hotline: 1-800-200-BEES (2337) for managed honeybee questions/concerns, to report invasive species, and for conducting bee checks prior to apply any pesticide labeled toxic to bees to a flowering plant.

Website:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/awm/entomology.html>

Agricultural specimens drop boxes:

Agriculture, Weights & Measures at San Diego Office

9325 Hazard Way, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92123

Agriculture, Weights & Measures at North County Office

151 E. Carmel Street, San Marcos, CA 92078

Note: Please include *Specimen for Determination* form with sample submissions, found on our website, and contact us by phone or email prior to submitting any suspect invasive species samples.



Upcoming Tree Fund Webinar: Risk governance and equity in urban forest management

Urban tree values have been successfully communicated through ecosystem services accounting, plant appraisal, and communications campaigns. However, sometimes such efforts fail in their desired impact, possibly because they do not always take into account the experiences, values, and cultures of diverse community members. This presentation describes a research project in which city government, a community organization, the US Forest Service, and a university collaborated to explore how local values and attitudes affected perceptions of risks and benefits of trees in an historically African American neighborhood. The project's goal is to help urban tree managers communicate the values of trees to diverse communities and improve benefits of their urban forest.

Time

Dec 6, 2022 12:00 PM in Central Time (US and Canada)

Registration Link

https://auburn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V5HG8sazQDKgE947PPs8IQ

UPCOMING WEBINAR

DECEMBER 7, 2022

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INVASIVE WILDLAND & URBAN TREE PESTS

Reserve your place - visit ucanr.edu

Virtual workshop
1:00 - 4:00pm

DPR & ISA CEUs available

14TH Annual Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

Saturday January 14, 2023 - 8:00AM to 2:00PM



Come join us at The Stein Family Farm in National City for this hands-on demonstration and in the field practice to increase your skills and knowledge of deciduous fruit tree pruning. This workshop requires your participation in pruning these trees.

- We will meet at 8AM for coffee and light refreshments
- Status and needs of deciduous fruit at the Stein Farm
- A brief overview of the “must do” tasks and timing to insure best care for and results from your fruiting trees and shrubs. Included are fertilization, insect and disease identification and IPM
- Hands on pruning of the trees at the farm until 2 PM

What to bring: Hand Pruners, Loppers, Handsaws and gloves. Field attire & shoes

Cost: \$100.00

Registration includes Lunch, refreshments, handouts and CEU hours arborist & tree worker. Please indicate if you are a vegetarian for lunch preference

Location: Stein Family Farm 1808 F Ave. National City, CA 91950 street parking

QUESTIONS?

CALL OR EMAIL Kurt Peacock 619-992-8508 or kpeacock1963@gmail.com

WCISA PEST FEST

18th Annual Pest Conference - Virtual
December 16, 2022 | 8:15am - 2:30 pm

Featured Speakers:

- Dr. Drew Zwart
- Dr. Johanna Del Castillo Munera
- Dr. Chris McDonald
- Dr. Suzanne Rooney Latham

ISA and DPR Credits Available.

