



Branching Out

A Newsletter of the Inland Urban Forest Council*

**Formerly the Inland Empire Urban Forest Council*

Beware the Dangers of Moving Firewood!

Fred Roth, Ph.D. Consulting Arborist

Invasive pests spend part or most of their life cycle within the wood of trees they have killed. Such pests have been associated with the historically destructive Dutch elm disease which wiped out the once prized American elm as a useful street tree. But we don't need to search the history books to come up with examples of devastating tree problems. Several are occurring in our own "back yards" even as you read this. Some of them are directly destructive, such as the emerald ash borer and Asian long horned borer of the upper Midwest and the gold spotted oak borer currently killing our coast live oaks in San Diego County and more recently Riverside County. Others do their lethal damage by carrying pathogenic fungi that they feed on such as the recently introduced polyphagous shot hole borer which is spreading quickly in southern California and causing rapid death of mature trees of a number of important tree species. Other recently introduced diseases spread by insects are the Thousand Canker Disease of walnuts and Laurel Wilt of a number of species including California bay and avocado.



Gold spotted oak borer adult.



Ambrosia beetle adult

The problem insects are widening their circle of destruction dramatically, moving much farther and faster than imaginable on their own. They are doing this by hitching rides as the trees they killed are turned into firewood and sold widely. The best way to stop the spread is for everyone to be suspicious of the firewood they purchase. Try to purchase only local firewood and be sure not to move it elsewhere. This may take some discipline as you look around your property for something to make a campfire with next time you go to the beach or to your cabin in the mountains. You don't want to be responsible for the next disastrous outbreak! Go ahead and enjoy your firewood, just remember:

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT!



The Inland Urban Forest Council (IUFC) is a network of tree advocates that works to advance the sustainable management of trees in urban ecosystems of inland southern California, including portions of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and eastern Los Angeles County.

Selecting the Right Tree

Bill Spiewak, Registered Consulting Arborist.

Choosing the right tree for the right place is critical to avoiding long term problems. First, clarify your basic objectives. Then, seek out sound information about the trees you are considering. Choose your tree wisely and plan accordingly.

Here are some tips to get you on the right path:

1. Most importantly, determine the ultimate size and shape that fits your planting site. Some trees are upright, conical or spreading. A spreading tree along a property line may encroach into the neighbor’s yard. A conical shape tree may conflict with the overhead utility wires. Look for several mature species in your area for comparisons. When planting the young tree, be sure to allow enough space for it to reach its desire mature size and to avoid unnecessary pruning.
2. Decide whether you desire an evergreen or deciduous tree (loses its leaves in the winter). Choosing to plant a deciduous tree with its mature canopy near the house, will allow for winter sun and summer shade at the selected site and can provide improved climate control for your home. Note where the sun moves across your property at different times of the year.
3. What are the water needs of this tree? Is it compatible with other landscape features within its eventual root zone? (e.g.: native oaks and some other species do not like year round irrigation.)
4. Consider leaf color, texture, shape, flowering and fruiting habit of the desired tree. All trees shed, however some species are messier than others. Leaf litter can provide needed mulch for your garden or can become a high maintenance nuisance depending on the situation. *Sunset Western Garden Book* can be a good resource for some of this information.
5. The majority of most root systems are in the upper 18 inches of soil. Surface roots can be a problem between neighbors or in your own landscape. Ask a qualified professional for information on the rooting habit of your selection. Will the growing roots crack or lift your paving or hardscape materials? Root barriers installed during planting can often reduce problems.
6. Are there any common pests, diseases or structural weaknesses of this tree species? Certain species are highly susceptible to annual leaf blight or defoliating pests. These species generally look sick throughout the year. Others trees have common structural weaknesses that frequently result in branch splitting. Some varieties of a tree species are developed without the negative characteristics of the tree you desire, such as fruitless varieties, e.g., olive and plum.
7. Have you observed unusually small or discolored leaves on plants in the chosen site? Soil problems often damage or restrict the growth of trees. A field inspection or a soil sample collected by a qualified professional and analyzed at a laboratory may reveal correctable or limiting conditions that can guide you towards a better tree selection.
8. Do your homework; ask questions. Look for tree species in your area that fit your needs and appear to be thriving. Take photos and ask a nursery or tree professional for proper identification. Educate yourself and avoid problems for yourself and your neighbors.



Photo by Diana Ruiz

IUFC Completes Latest UFMP Toolkit Project

In November 2012, IUFC wrapped up the latest phase of its urban forest management toolkit project. In 2011, IUFC was awarded another CAL-FIRE grant with funding from the U.S. Forest Service. This grant targeted organizations tasked with managing trees, and we sought to provide them with assistance in using the toolkit to develop an urban forest management plan. This was accomplished at minimal cost through of series of local workshops, on-line seminars, site visits, and online assistance.



Photo by Diana Ruiz

We had 32 initial participants for this program. They included a mix of municipalities, universities, non-profit organizations, and homeowners’ associations, and they were almost evenly distributed between northern and southern California. Seven cities left the program due to lack of staff and time resources. We delivered 25 urban forest management plans.

The PowerPoint presentations from each of the workshops and Webinars are available for download at www.inlandurbanforestcouncil.org under the ‘UFMP toolkit’ tab.

We found that not only was this grant program an educational experience for the participants, it was also a powerful learning tool for us as facilitators. We are highly optimistic about the potential for the toolkit to be instrumental in improving urban forest management plans. We believe this methodology is replicable and that it could be expanded nationwide.

Sims Tree Learning Center presents *Wildlife Aware*



Photo by Melissa Bacallan

Wildlife Aware is an educational program that will enable Arborists to recognize types of bird nests and bird species and be aware of the laws and regulations affecting arborists with regard to bird and wildlife safety.

Wildlife Aware can be an education only program where the student attends, learns, and receives a vehicle or window sticker or patch stating, “*I am Wildlife Aware*”. Those more dedicated can stay and take an exam. Graduates of *Wildlife Aware* receive a vehicle or window sticker or patch stating “*Wildlife Aware Graduate*”.

To be a *Wildlife Aware* graduate is a lifetime accomplishment. Graduates will be emailed as laws and regulations affecting them change or are enacted. Classes qualify for ISA CEUs.

Our first *Wildlife Aware* seminar will be Wednesday June 26 and another course on the Saturday June 29. Classes are limited to 25. ISA CEUs applied for. Classes will be held at the Sims Tree Learning Center, 6111 Appaloosa Ave, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509. If interested please contact Sims at (951) 685-6662. The seminar will consist of both classroom and field lectures.

2013 Upcoming Events

For questions, or to RSVP for IUFC events, please email IUFC2@aol.com

- June 13** ***Trees Make Dollars and Sense workshop***, 9am – 3pm
 Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District
 4500 Glenwood Drive, Building F, Riverside, CA 92501
 The first in a series of four plant appraisal workshops sponsored by IUFC
 Register for this event at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6429006331>
 Classes are limited to 25. ISA CEU's applied for.



- June 26** ***Wildlife Aware seminar***,
 Sims Tree Learning Center
 6111 Appaloosa Ave, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509
 If interested please contact Sims at (951) 685-6662.

- June 29** ***Wildlife Aware seminar***

- October 22** ***IUFC Fall Quarterly Meeting*** Details TBA
 Quarterly Meetings are normally on fourth Thursdays.
 All are welcome to join and help plan future activities.

Resources:

IUFC	www.inlandurbanforestcouncil.org
Urban Forest Management Toolkit	www.ufmptoolkit.com
California Urban Forest Council	www.caufc.org
California ReLeaf	www.californiareleaf.org

If you would like to join our free mailing list to receive announcements about upcoming programs, please contact us at IUFC2@aol.com or through one of our Steering Committee members.

Winter meeting and tour of gardens at Sims Tree Learning Center.
 From left: Fred Roth, Nancy Humenik-Sappington, Susan Sims, Gary Sims, Mark Porter.
 We hope to see you at our next meeting.



IUFC Steering Committee

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The IUFC:

- shares information that will help with the planning and management of community forests
- obtains and shares region-wide funding for urban forestry programs
- conducts educational field trips, tours, and workshops
- advocates for tree planting and care by supporting outreach events, such as Arbor Day and Earth Day.

The IUFC is one of seven regional councils in California. The Council advances regional concerns to the California Urban Forests Council, CAL-FIRE (formerly California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection), and the California Community Forestry Advisory Committee (CCFAC).