

The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

July 20, 2016

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President Delvin Glymph
Malibu Rotary Club President Elect Bianca Torrence

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman and Bill Wishard

In This Issue (click underlined topics for web link when connected to the Internet)

- **Last week: Arborist Michael Frilot Tells Why 26 Million Trees Died in California Last Year and Steps That Can Be to Slow Down This Epidemic**
- **Next Regular Malibu Rotary Club Meeting July 27 at Pepperdine Graduate Campus Room LC 152 with fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at noon. Bill Wishard and Bianca Torrence Talk About The July 16th Walk4Life—An Event Promoting Peace, Racial Harmony and Hope in World That Seems Torn With Terrorism**
- **Next Malibu Rotary Event: Malibu Arts Festival sponsored by Chamber July 30 and 31**
- **Other news from last Malibu Rotary Club meeting**

Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website www.maliburotary.org

- **Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org**

- **Rotary District 5280 Website:**www.rotary5280.org/
- **RI President (2016-2017) John F. Germ**
- **Rotary District 5280 Governor (2016-2017) Greg O'Brien**

Arborist Michael Frilot Tells Why 26 Million Trees Died in California Last Year and Steps That Can Be Done to Slow Down This Epidemic



(Above) Michael Frilot, a certified arborist since 1981, was featured speaker at the Malibu Rotary Club July 20th, holds a small piece of Oak tree bark which has been bored into by 2 different kinds of beetles. Infestations along with the drought are some of the reasons that 26 million trees died in California last year, among them 1 million Oak trees in San Diego County.

The number of dead trees in California's forests dramatically increased in just one year.

The latest survey from the United States Forest Service revealed that an additional 26 million trees have succumbed to drought, a devastating bark beetle infestation, and hotter temperatures in 2015. That brings the number of trees that have died in the Sierra Nevada to 66 million since 2010.

For a state already in the throes of fire season, the discovery of a 65 percent increase in the number of dead trees within its forests is a troubling sign.

"These new numbers really show that the tree die-off is spreading at an astronomical rate," said Amy Head, a Cal Fire education officer. "It's unprecedented, and it's changing the landscape of whole ecosystems in California."

The new figures are based on a May aerial survey assessment that found millions of new dead trees across the state. The southern portion of the Sierras—from Tuolumne County down to Kern County—shows the most severe tree mortality rates per acre.

Michael has worked with various tree and landscape companies over the years, and now has his own company, Michael's Arbor Solutions. There is not much we can do about the drought but Michael feels an obligation to get the word out about how tree diseases are spreading and some of the ways humans are part of it.

This is especially true of the goldspotted oak borer beetle.

The goldspotted oak borer (GSOB), *Agrilus auroguttatus* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae), is a flatheaded borer introduced to San Diego County, California, in the late 1990s or early 2000s and also detected at one site in Riverside County in 2012.



“Fire Sale” on Fire Wood

The goldspotted oak borer was likely brought into the state on oak firewood collected and transported from the insect’s native range in southeastern Arizona or northern Mexico. Although

currently confined to San Diego and Riverside counties, this pest will likely invade other areas of California.

Since at least 2000, GSOB has caused extensive injury and mortality to oaks in woodlands and mixed-conifer forests in San Diego County. GSOB prefers mature oak trees, but it occasionally attacks smaller oaks with a diameter at breast height (dbh) of about 10 inches.

When the tree dies it is sold for fire wood. People buying the firewood are often getting more than just the wood. They are getting the beetle larvae in the bark. Non-native insects and diseases that can kill large numbers of trees are often transported long distances. Once they arrive in a new location, they can infest and kill other trees.

In reports from the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources it is recommended not to move firewood. Use locally sourced firewood to help slow the spread of non-native pests like the invasive shot hole borers. They recommend leaving wood at home when visiting a park or taking a camping, hunting or RV trip. Buy only what you need and burn responsibly.

The beetles can survive in cut wood for weeks or even months. Dispose of infested wood properly to avoid spreading the beetles to other areas. Chip infested wood whenever possible. Chips and logs should either be composted, solarized, kiln-dried, used as landfill, or burned at a bioregeneration facility. Wrap or cover infested wood during transport. Disinfect tools and equipment after trimming infested trees.

Two exotic, invasive beetles are causing increasingly extensive damage to Southern California's urban trees, native and riparian forests, and avocado groves. Thousands of severely affected trees have died or been removed in both natural and landscaped areas. These two closely related, physical identical beetles are also referred to simply as invasive Shot Hole Borers. How they arrived in California is uncertain, but scientists believe they most likely originated in Southeast Asia. Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) was first discovered in Los Angeles County in 2012 and can now be found in Orange, Ventura, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Kuroshio Shot Hole Borer (KSHB) was discovered in San Diego County in 2012 and has also been detected in Orange County.

Both beetles carry a type of Fusarium fungus that is pathogenic (disease-causing) to susceptible trees.

The beetles tunnel into trees to lay their eggs and introduce the fungus that causes Fusarium Dieback. The disease and the tunneling activity disrupt the flow of water and nutrients that the tree needs to survive and also weaken the tree's trunk and branches. After repeated attacks, the beetle/disease complex causes branch dieback and tree mortality.

The beetles attack landscape, agricultural, riparian, and native trees. Common trees like sycamore, cottonwood, willow, avocado white alder, and box elder appear to be especially susceptible.

PSHB and KSHB are attacking dozens of tree species found throughout Southern California, many of which are native to the region and common on private properties, municipal, county, state, and federal public lands, and tribal lands.

Tree decline and death can result in:

- Public safety hazards due to falling limbs, increased fire danger, and increased flood risk due to blockages of water ways.
- Decreased property value.
- Increased air and noise pollution.
- Habitat loss for endangered birds and other wildlife.
- Loss of ecosystem services, including, cooling, water filtration, and carbon sequestration.

Researchers are actively looking for solutions to control this new beetle/disease complex. Experiments by UC Riverside are investigating pesticide efficacy, detection methods, and natural predators or parasites (biocontrol). While there is no known method that offers complete control at this time, multiple surveys are being conducted to monitor infestation. UC has collaborated with various agencies and stakeholders to increase awareness and outreach and to identify research funding needs.

The UC Riverside websites include www.pshb.org and www.eskalenlab.ucr.edu.

(Pictured below) Infestation of two different types of beetles in the bark of oak tree. An exotic Shot Hole Borer beetle caused the left small red hole and a native flat borer beetle caused the larger black hole on the right



Why the U.S. Should follow the lead of Europe and Outlaw Wooden Shipping Pallets

We already talked about how moving beetle infested fire wood can spread the infestation of tree disease to more living trees, causing them to become infected and die. Another and probable method of the spread of beetle infestation in California and across the country is wooden shipping pallets on Cargo boats from Asia.

This has been known for years. Take the emerald ash borer, for example. This pest is a native of China and Eastern Asia, but in 2002, it mysteriously appeared in North America. The borer was discovered both in Ontario and in communities in Michigan. How did this species get here, all the way from China? Before the last decade, this best had never been found in North America. It had been found in Russia, Japan, Korea, and China. Like other exotic creatures, they hitched a ride, this time on likely on wooden packaging material used to ship products from China to North America.

Though the introduction of the emerald ash borer was accidental, the toll this pest has taken on the communities it has infested is severe. Over the next five years, the emerald ash borer will infest more than half of the United States, killing more than seventeen million ash trees.

Replacing these trees is expected to cost more than \$10 billion. When a tree is infested, the only way to prevent the ash borers from spreading to other trees is to chop down that tree and destroy it—a very ineffective and destructive solution.

Another destructive pest that is spreading rapidly across the nation is the Asian long-horned beetle. This beetle is only native to parts of Asia, and like the emerald ash borer, is believed to have arrived here first in the wood of shipping pallets. This beetle has very few natural predators

in North America and there are no effective biological or chemical defenses. A tree infested with these beetles, like the emerald ash borer, has to be cut down and destroyed.

The Asian long-horned beetle has hugely affected New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Illinois. More than half a billion dollars has been spent on trying to eradicate these beetles, ranging from testing insecticides, to the removal of the trees themselves. Once the beetles establish themselves in an area, they could be a threat to some of the continent's sugar companies, and could seriously threaten the natural ecosystems in these states. The trees that are at risk for infestation are worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

Both US and Canadian governments, in addition to the Mexican government, have been trying to work with Chinese exporters to make sure that their shipping materials meet the international standards for wood packaging, but this has not exactly solved the problem. These pests will continue to arrive in shipping materials, as long as wood shipping crates and pallets are the standard.

To help solve this issue companies are switching to plastic pallets, metal containers, or heated pallets since these pallets repel insects of all kinds. The goal for all companies alike is to be proactive toward making it difficult if not impossible for more exotic creatures to find their way onto our shores and threatening our ecosystem.

We used to think the United States was a world leader in environmental issues. Certainly in clean air standards, requirements for energy sources this is true. But when it comes to

recognizing the dangers of infestation from wooden shipping containers the U.S. lagging behind the European Union. The EU passed the following law regarding shipping

From March 01, 2005 onwards, all import shipments for the EU territory (25 member states as per Annex) have to comply with the wood packaging standard ISPM15. Any wood packaging not treated will be subject to quarantine, thus delays and extra costs are inevitable. As communicated with circular dated 05. March 2005, EU member states incurred delay in transforming EU regulation into law of the individual member states. However, additional countries are introducing the law in fast sequence, so that it is difficult to give a review on the implementation status of all individual EU countries. Irrespective of the implementation status of remaining countries, governments already recommend to use only wood packaging in accordance with the ISPM15 Standard.

As result of the this law most of the shipping pallets arriving at European ports are made of plastic. Those made of wood must go through quarantine. It would make sense for rest of the world, including the U.S., to adapt the same standards.

Other News and Guests from last Malibu Rotary Club meeting

Club President Delvin Glypmph spoke of upcoming Rotary District events, the Rotary District Breakfast at LAX Westin Hotel on August 9 featuring former LA Ram Tight End Bob Klein and District Picnic August 27 at the Seaside Lagoon in Redondo Beach 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

There was much discussion about the Malibu Rotary Club booth at the Malibu Arts Festival (see below).

Guests

The only guest at the July 20th meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club was **Daniel Bejines** who was helping guest speaker **Michael Frilot** with his presentation and works with Mike at Mike's Arbor Solutions. We should say that Mike's business is currently totally by referral and he can be reached by e-mail at Michael@masarbrsolutions.com.


Next Malibu Rotary Event: Malibu Arts Festival sponsored by Chamber July 30 and 31

Bianca Torrence said she had spoken to Sal and people at the Malibu Kiwanis Club about the Malibu Rotary Club participation in the 2016 Kiwanis Chili Cook-Off. The Kiwanis Club has allowed the Malibu Rotary Club to have a booth at the Chili Cookoff where the Malibu Rotary Club sells water and watermelon. This has been a fundraiser for the Malibu Rotary Club for several years. Bianca learned that this year the Kiwanis Club is having the Girl Scouts sell water and watermelon. While we were trying to figure out if the Malibu Rotary Club was going to participate in the Kiwanis Club Chili Cook **Mark Persson** suggested that the Malibu Rotary Club could participate in the Malibu Chamber sponsored Malibu Arts Festival July 30 and 31, and sell (or give away for donation) water and watermelon at the Arts Festival. Those present at the July 13th Malibu Rotary club meeting thought that was a good idea, although there is very little time to plan. **Margo Neal** passed around a sign u sheet for volunteers. There will be 2 shifts on Saturday July 30 and 2 shifts on Sunday July 31. The first shift is from 10:00 a.m (or before) to 2:00 p.m. The second shift is from 2:00 pm until 6:00 p.m. It was decided that each volunteer should bring a case of water and a bag of ice. The water can be brought in left on Friday evening July 29. It could conceivably be brought to the next Rotary Club meeting. **Bianca Torrence** was able to get a canopy for the Malibu Rotary Club booth and she will help set up on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. and take down at 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Duty Roster will be a Malibu Rotary Club meeting July 20.

Speakers Needed

John Elman pointed out that the dates of all the speakers are shown on our website maliburotary.org. One can click on either the Calendar or Speakers. If there is no speaker shown on any Wednesday it means that no speaker has been booked for that date. If you know a good speaker you can either log into Maiburotary.org and book the speaker yourself or e-mail John to do it. .

Malibu Rotarians at Walk4Life—A Event Promoting Peace, Racial Harmony and Hope in World That Seems Torn With Terrorism

 PRESENTED BY PEOPLE FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT,
BANK OF AMERICA, AND
THE LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Theme: Unity and Human Sex Trafficking

Dr. Vicky Radel
Rotary International

Karen & Gloria
Green Dot School

**7th Annual
WALK
4LIFE
JULY 16**

Pastor Powe
Peace Riders
Grand Marshal

Kandee Lewis
The Positive Results Corp.

Tommy The Clown


Fresh Prince of LA

9:00am 4K Walk (2.5 Miles)
Sheriff's Youth Center : 11911 S. Vermont Ave : Los Angeles, CA 90044
Additional Walkers Join In Athens Park : 12603 S Broadway : Los Angeles, CA 90061

10:00am Community Festival, Health Fair & Car Show
4:00pm Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park : 905 E. El Segundo : Los Angeles, CA 90059

More Information: 323-303-3339 : PCICenter.org

Entertainment by
DJ Battlecat
& Holy D-P-Funk Gospel





Bianca Torrence and **Bill Wishard** represented the Malibu Rotary Club at the Walk 4 Life in South Central Los Angeles on July 16. They will talk about it at the July 27th Malibu Rotary Club meeting at Pepperdine. The walk started in an area Ralphs parking lot on Vermont, went through Athens Park on Vermont and ended at Magic Johnson Park on El Segundo. In contrast to the violence and terrorism that has been the headline news of past couple weeks this was a peace march bringing people together. Rotary Participation in the event was headed by Rotary District 5280 Past District Governor Dr. Vickie Radel. In the middle picture Robert Ryan, Past President of Crenshaw Rotary Club, (in blue shirt holding Rotary banner) is seen along with Bianca and Bill. Ryan will be a future Malibu speaker. He will be talking about Human Trafficking. There were 200-300, at this event, which was covered by KTLA. The police escort assisted people. Also at event was Congresswoman (D) Karen Bass who represents the 37th Congressional District. Bill said that there was an array of various community groups participating in this event, and the people were of all age groups and races, although primarily African American. He said there was a great spirit of bringing people together, with hugs and a wonderful contrast with day's news from Baton Rouge, and events the previous week in Dallas.

Calendar (for details on these programs see Calendar on maliburotary.org)

- **Next Regular Malibu Rotary Club Meeting July 27 at Pepperdine Graduate Campus Room LC 152 with fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at noon. Bill Wishard and Bianca Torrence Talk About The July 16th Walk4Life—An Event Promoting Peace, Racial Harmony and Hope in World That Seems Torn With Terrorism**
- **Next Malibu Rotary Event: Malibu Arts Festival sponsored by Chamber July 30 and 31**
- **August 6 Rotary District Breakfast with Former Los Angeles Rams Tight End Bob Klein as Speaker at Westin LAX Hotel—Prior to playing with Rams he played at St Monicas High School and played with OJ Simpson at USC. He is President and CEO of St John's Health Foundation and member of Santa Monica Rotary Club named tight end on the Los Angeles Rams 40th Anniversary Team.**
- **August 7—No Malibu Rotary Club meeting at Pepperdine—members encouraged to go the District August 6 which will be our meeting**

- **August 17 Speaker at Malibu Rotary Club will be Malibu High School Student Grace Stickney who is a Rotary Youth Exchange Student to Japan this Summer.**