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CANOPY

TREES FOR PALO ALTO

Canopy is a non-profit advocate for Palo Alto's community trees and works to educate, inspire and engage Palo Altans as stewards of new and existing trees.



AUTUMN 2002

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Canopy Declares Independence

On July 1, 2002, Canopy: Trees for Palo Alto became a stand-alone charitable not-for-profit corporation. Formed in the summer of 1996, Canopy is the advocate for Palo Alto's urban forest. From the time of its formation, Canopy had been a Sponsored Project of Acterra (formerly the Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation). Canopy is now incorporated and is a tax-exempt charitable 501(c)(3) organization.

David Smernoff, Executive Director of Acterra, congratulated Canopy on reaching this important milestone saying "Canopy is another successful example of Acterra's Fiduciary Program whereby Acterra provides administrative support and guidance for new organizations that help the environment. We are proud to have been a part of Canopy's growth and development to this point. We wish them many more years of success."

Howell Lovell, Canopy's Executive Director, thanked Acterra and said

"Without their help and assistance, Canopy would not be where we are today." Lovell then stressed "The general public should not notice any change. We will stay where we are and continue with the planting and educational programs that have made us so successful to date." He continued "And at this time of year Tree Care is foremost on our minds. So let me take this opportunity to remind you to 'Water your young trees now!'"

In the six years Canopy has served the community, over 1300 Canopy volunteers have planted hundreds of trees on streets, in parks and schools, and in open space areas. Over 700 people have attended our Tree Talks and Tree Walks. Canopy's "Right Tree in the Right Place" Program is a model across the State. Hundreds of people have called the Canopy "Tree Line" for advice on tree problems. And Canopy has inventoried all of the oak trees in the urban areas of Palo Alto. ■

JJ&F Grocery Spreads the “Water” Word

We want to thank **JJ&F** grocery store on College Avenue for helping to spread the “water now” word. Printed on thousands of their grocery bags in their store is the message “It’s hot and dry, please WATER our young street trees.” It’s part of Canopy’s campaign to encourage and remind residents to care for the young street tree in front of their homes. The city can’t possibly water every young street tree every week, yet, a young tree that receives regular water during the hot dry months will flourish and shade the neighborhood. Thanks for the reminders, JJs!!! ■

Proper Pruning Demo



Canopy Board Member John McClenahan demonstrates proper tree pruning technique on a Canopy-planted pistache at the Greenmeadows Community Center.

Trees that Touch Our Lives

Our next tree in this series, identified by Duncan King, is a valley oak. The tree is on private property at the corner of Melville and Webster. Duncan says “This tree has lovingly sheltered the nearby nearly-100-year-old house there; provided a ‘beam’ for generations of children to swing from, and shade and comfort to the families living there.”

Do you have a favorite tree—one that has special meaning to you, one that you find remarkable for some reason? Perhaps it is particularly beautiful, or maybe it has personal significance because of some event it helped witness. Whatever the reason, if you know of such a tree and would like to tell others about it, we’d like to help. Send us a few sentences about why you think it is exceptional. Tell us where it is and, if you know, what kind of tree it is. Include a photo if you have one (with addressed return envelope if you want it back). We’ll select from readers submissions and publish them in this column in future newsletters. ■



Two views of a comforting valley oak which graces an interior garden on Melville.

Learn How to Plant Trees Properly Be a Planting Leader

Did you know that 80 percent of trees planted, even by professionals, are planted 2 to 4 inches too deep? Planting too deep may cause soil and moisture to collect around the base of the trunk, inviting disease to develop.

Learn all about good planting techniques by becoming a Planting Leader. Canopy's Planting Leaders are essential volunteers who make our tree-planting program possible. Planting Leaders participate in two to three plantings a year and lead small groups of volunteers, having fun while teaching them and ensuring the high quality of Canopy plantings.

This year, a Planting Leader Training Session will be held in November and led by Fred Youngbluth, a certified arborist. Participants will learn the secrets of tree planting that they can apply both at home and at community planting events.

For more information, or to sign up, please contact the Canopy office (650) 964-6110 or info@canopy.org. ■

What to Plant Under Power Lines

All trees under power lines are prime examples of the “the wrong tree in the wrong place.” Trees growing into power lines create dangerous situations, even power outages, from rubbing wires or falling branches during storms. But what about screening along the back fence or hiding the ugly power pole? What are appropriate trees to plant under power lines?

Here are just a few suggestions taken from Canopy's approved list of trees for the Right Tree, Right Place program and from PG&E's Safe Tree program.

Deciduous Trees

Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*) 10–20 ft. Red, pink, purple or white summer flowers. Drought tolerant. Beautiful bark. Select varieties resistant to powdery mildew: ‘Cherokee’ and ‘Natchez’. (Newsletter Autumn ‘00, p. 8.)

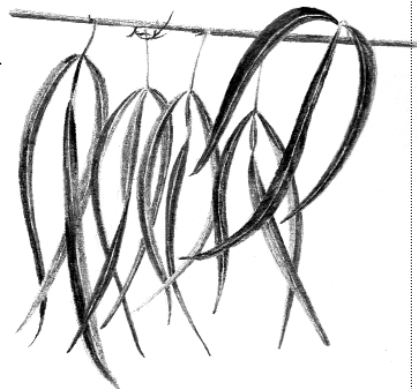
Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) 10–25 ft. Spring blooming, striking magenta flowers. Heart-shaped leaves. Drought tolerant.

Robinson Crabapple (*Malus x ‘Robinson’*) 25 ft. Pink spring flowers. Highly disease resistance. Fall dark red berries attract birds.

Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia Chinensis*) 15–35 feet, relatively slow growing. Red fall color. Drought tolerant. In Palo Alto,

not approved for under low power lines. (Newsletter, summer ‘97, p. 3.)

Trident Maple (*Acer buergerianum*) 20–25 feet. Graceful shape; good fall color and attractive bark. Good drought tolerance, especially for a maple.



Evergreen Trees

African Sumac (*Rhus lancea*) 15–25 feet. Attractive bark. Pea-sized fruit of females can be messy on paving. Drought tolerant, tough tree. (Illus. above)

Citrus trees (*Citrus*) 7–12 feet on dwarf rootstock, 15–25 feet on standard rootstock. Trees do better with regular watering. Citrus requires good soil drainage. Protect trees from frost, especially when young.

Bronze Loquat (*Eriobotrya deflexa*) 25 feet, fast-growing. New leaves emerge a copper color. No edible fruit, unlike *Eriobotrya japonica*. ■

Tree Staking for the Budding Tree Care Amateur

A major part of a successful tree planting is the proper placement and use of stakes. Keep in mind that the objective of using stakes is to help support (and to a certain extent, protect) the young tree as it grows into its new environment.

Trees from the nursery have stakes, typically strapped directly to the tree trunk, which are intended to keep the tree standing up. When we plant a tree, we want the stakes to take on a different role—to keep the tree from falling down. This may, at first glance, seem like a mere difference in semantics. But there is a real difference. As trees are raised in the nursery, they are encouraged to grow rapidly. This is often done at the expense of encouraging sturdy trunk development. Thus the nursery uses stakes attached to the trunk to hold the tree up.

For the first couple of years after a tree is planted, it typically needs support while it develops an anchor of roots in the new ground-space it occupies. It also often needs support to keep the above-ground part from being blown over. As the tree matures in its new location its trunk should strengthen—eventually, if not at first, the trunk should

become capable of standing on its own. Thus, planting stakes are used to keep the tree from falling down.

To give your tree the best chance for success, at least two stakes should be used. Three is better. The use of a third stake has the additional benefit of providing more protection from inadvertent mechanical damage by passing lawnmowers and weed trimmers. If you use two stakes, the best placement for them is such that support is given at a right angle to the prevailing wind direction. This allows the trunk to flex, but not fall, as the wind hits it and to develop the strength it needs. With three-stake planting, there's no particular preferred stake orientation.

No matter how many stakes you use, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Remove and discard the nursery stake. It is not appropriate (in size or placement) for the “keep the tree from falling down” task. Take care not to injure the tree as you clip the ties holding the nursery stake to the tree.
- Place the new support stakes just outside the rootball, typically 10"–12" from the base of the trunk.



Example of proper staking—note loose ties and stakes trimmed to below lowest branches

- Pound the stakes into the ground until you are sure they will stay put and sturdy. This would be normally at least a foot lower than the bottom of the planting hole—more in soft soils.
- Tree ties should be attached at a height that ensures the tree will remain upright in a strong wind—don't put them so low that the tree is in danger of breaking in the wind. Selection of the right place to place the ties is a bit subjective—use your own good judgment.
- Wrap the tree ties around the tree trunk in a figure-8 and attach to the stakes. They should be somewhat loose to allow for growth of the tree

TREE STAKING, continued from previous page

trunk and to allow the trunk to move (see previous page).

- Cut off the top of the stakes just above where the tree ties are attached. Anything taller is wasted and has the potential of injuring lower branches.

Keep an eye on the stakes as the tree develops. In most cases a tree will be ready to be freed of its stakes after two to three years (and the under-

ground portion of the stakes may well have rotted away by then). So unless the tree is very weak and/or it is in an extremely windy location, the stakes can and should be removed after this two-to-three year stabilization period. Remember, there's no absolute in these guidelines. Follow them with good judgment and you'll have a happy, healthy tree for years to come. ■

Examples of how NOT to stake young trees.



Three years after the planting these stakes are no longer helping this tree. They have come loose from their setting and are rubbing against the tree. The tree is obviously able to stand on its own.



“Duct tape is like ‘The Force.’ It has a ‘dark side’ and a ‘light side’ and together they hold together the universe.” —anon

Farewell to Karen Donnelly, Canopy’s Program Director



We are sad to announce that Karen Donnelly, our Program Director for the last two years has resigned to become a full time student in the Foothill College

Ornamental Horticulture Program. Karen’s organizational skills and her great rapport with our volunteers and the community will be missed. As Program Director, Karen has organized all our tree plantings, coordinated logistical issues with various City departments, recruited volunteers from various sources including many youth groups, and coordinated tree walk and tree talk activities. Among her many accomplishments, Karen’s work in organizing and implementing a tree care program

If you or anyone you know are interested in applying for this position please call Canopy at (650) 964-6110.

for newly planted street trees is particularly notable. She was able to secure funding for a pilot tree care program in 2001 and then followed up this year with a City-wide education and workshop program encouraging residents to care for their young street trees. While we’ll be losing Karen as an employee, she plans on continuing her relationship with Canopy through various volunteer efforts. Kudos to Karen for all her great work for Canopy! ■

\$10,000 SAFETREE Grant to Canopy

Canopy recently received a \$10,000 grant from SAFE-TREE, a public education program funded by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). Canopy will use the funds to support its local activities. One supported program will be to educate the public on the importance of removing trees in conflict with utility lines—planting the “right tree in the right place.”

Mary Burns, SafeTree Program Manager, said “The work that Canopy is doing is invaluable to the preservation of the urban forest and the safety of our citizens who may enjoy the beneficial effects of trees without the potential danger caused by nearby power lines. This is exactly the kind of group we like to support.”

The SafeTree Program is a five-year PG&E public education program working to improve public awareness of tree safety issues near power lines. SafeTree estimates that up to 25% of California’s urban trees impact or are impacted by utilities. ■

Plant Amnesty Founder Calls the Garden to Order

In front of a full house Cass Turnbull, founder of Plant Amnesty, answered the following: Challenged by an overgrown yard? Need to prune; not sure where to start? Want to remove just some of the plants?

In September Cass gave a lecture/slide show on “How to Prune and Renovate the Overgrown Landscape” sponsored by Canopy and the Palo Alto Public Works Department. Using illustrations and examples of real landscapes, she demonstrated the principles of landscape pruning. Trees and shrubs were divided into three general categories and pruning do’s and don’ts given for each. The focus of the slide show was a demonstration of how to give order to the overplanted and overgrown yard. It included examples of basic cuts, rehabilitative pruning, radical renovation, transplanting, and creative solutions to common landscape design problems.

Cass, a Certified Arborist and Washington State Certified Landscaper, lectures extensively on horticulture and pruning. She founded Plant Amnesty in 1987 “to promote awareness and respect for plants as an integral part of our urban ecology.” ■

These events are made possible by a generous grant from California ReLeaf and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Pruning Young Trees...by an Old Master

With only a little time and some basic tools you can make a substantial difference in the future appearance and longevity of your new tree. Proper pruning, or training, at this early stage can improve the structural strength of your tree and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

Learn all about training young trees at a talk entitled “Training Young Trees for Structure and Form” presented by Canopy and the Palo Alto Public Works Department. It will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 6:30 to 8:00 pm in room H1 at the Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd. A University of California video on training young trees will be screened, followed by a discussion led by well-known local Certified Arborist, Kevin Raftery. Kevin is a former Canopy board member. In addition to his arboriculture business, he currently teaches at Foothill College and Gamble Garden.

Admission is FREE but space is limited so please reserve a seat in advance. Contact Canopy at (650) 964-6110 or info@canopy.org. ■

Canopy Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Tree Gifts 7/1/01–6/30/02

SP McClenahan Co., Inc., Tree Planting & Care Gift, in memory of Martha R. Mac Donald

Tuesday Evening Bridge Club, Tree Gift, in memory of Ann Bingham

Rachel & Elton Bell, Tree Gift, in memory of William Watterud

Larry & Jean Bozman, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in honor of Jim Schindler

Richard & Patty Bush, Tree Gift, to Bill Lucas for his 80th birthday

Carole Christian, Tree Gift, in memory of James Dolkas

Robin Clark & Mary Mackiernan, Tree Gift, in memory of Robert McAfee Brown

Janet Dafeo & Ron Davis, Tree Gift, in honor of Helen Freeman on the occasion of her birthday

John & Pat Davis, Tree Gift, in memory of Reid Poinier Sanders

Marty & Judy Deggeller, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in memory of Louis Levitas

Marty & Judy Deggeller, Tree Gift, in honor of Ellen Levitas

Kathryn Dunlevie & Robert Hayes, Tree Gift, in honor of Betsy Currie

Keith & Samantha Elliott, Tree Gift, in honor of Trish and Jim Mulvey

Kate Feinstein, Tree Gift, in memory of Mrs. Jennifer Ayres

Don & Virginia Fitton, Tree Gift, in memory of Kris Lynn Sexton

Diana Gilbert, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in honor of Susan Wilson in appreciation of a long-lasting friendship

Pria Graves & George Koerner, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in memory of Cyrene Koerner

Pria Graves & George Koerner Tree Planting & Care Gift in honor of George H. Koerner Jr.

Joe & Bette Hirsch, Tree Gift, on the occasion of the birthday of Paul Roskoph

Joe & Bette Hirsch, Tree Gift, in memory of David Zlotnick

Joe & Bette Hirsch, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in memory of Gladys Gross

Joe & Bette Hirsch, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in honor of the birth of Brendan Jacob Hirsch

Joe & Bette Hirsch, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in honor of the birth of Sydney Pittock Silverblatt

Michael Hutton, Tree Gift, in honor of David Botlein

Jeff Justice, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in honor of Christmas

Carl & Joanie King, Tree Gift, in honor of Leannah Hunt

Roger Klein, Tree Gift, in honor of Mrs. Gertrude Krieger

Ruth & Dick Lacey, Tree Gift, in memory of Betty Rogaway

Patricia Marriott, Tree Gift, in memory of Vera Kapustay

Patricia Marriott, Tree Gift, in memory of Howard Tart

James & Margaret Ann McClenahan, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in memory of Henry I. McClenahan

John & Cynthia McClenahan, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in memory of Susan May Pitt

Mary & Walt McCullough, Tree Gift, in memory of Arlene Warnke

Mary & Walt McCullough, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in honor of Hailey McCullough Tsuda's birthday

Mary & Walt McCullough, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in honor of Katie and Lily Wolfe, our grandchildren

Alice Meng & Amy Schultz, Tree Gift, in memory of Willie Ream

Eli Merritt, Tree Gift, in memory of Angie Donelson

Eli Merritt, Tree Gift, in memory of Cameron Lord

Eli Merritt, Tree Gift, in memory of Ruth Kinnard

John & Anita Mitchell, Tree Gift, in honor of Howard L. Mitchell

Jack & Mary Ellen Morton, Tree Gift, in honor of Sandy Eakins on the occasion of her Mayorship

Victor & Mary Ojakian, Tree Planting & Care Gift, The Honorable Joe Huber,

Harry Pederson & Joan Jacobus, Tree Gift, in honor of Ann Cole, an awesome Girl Scout leader

Forest Preston, III, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in memory of Forest Preston, II

Susan Rosenberg, Tree Gift, in memory of Alberta Siegal

Marjorie Smith, Tree Gift, in honor of Ro and Jim Dinkey

Ruth Soforenko, Tree Gift, in honor of Marty Deggeller's Special Birthday

Ruth Soforenko, Tree Gift, in honor of Darlene Vian's special birthday and Mary Hughes' birthday

Ilene & Michael Sotnick, Tree Gift, in honor of Stuart, Marcella, Max, Alissa and Benjamin Bernstein

Megan & Michael Swezey Fogarty, Tree Gift, for CL Swezey

Jerry & Mae Tinklenberg, Tree Gift, in honor of Kylie DeBruyn Callan

Jerry & Mae Tinklenberg, Tree Gift, in honor of Ashlyn Alissa Callan

Jerry & Mae Tinklenberg, Tree Gift, in honor of Leif Tinklenberg Jurvetson

Kimberly Warne, Tree Gift, on the occasion of Phil Krozek's 60th birthday

Caroline Zlotnick, Tree Planting & Care Gift, in honor of Hanna & Aaron for Chanukah

Caroline Zlotnick, Tree Gift, in memory of Gladys Gross

THANK YOU! Canopy salutes the following individuals and organizations for their gifts of \$250 or more during fiscal year 2002.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| OAK (\$1,000+) | SEQUOIA (\$500 to \$999) | |
| Lucy & Jim Baer | Nancy & John Cassidy | Betsy & Peter Currie |
| California ReLeaf | Leonard & Shirley Ely, Jr | Arline & Peter Dehlinger |
| Dalton Realty | David & Patricia Bubenik | Kate Feinstein |
| Marty & Judy Deggeller | Betty & Bob Meltzer | Marilynn Gallaway &
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| Garden Club of Palo Alto | Ventana Property Services,
Inc., Jos. Martignetti, Jr. | Sally & Whit Heaton |
| Diana Gilbert | Hans & Elizabeth Wolf | Leannah Hunt |
| Cynthia & John Gunn | | Ken & Marilyn Lavezzo |
| Joe & Bette Hirsch | TREE (\$250 to \$499) | Carolyn & Bill Reller |
| Nancy Peterson | Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto | Nancy & Emery Rogers |
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| Lanie & Dave Wheeler | Robin Clark & Mary
Mackiernan | Edgar & Gee Gee Williams |
| | Bill Courington | Susan Wilson |

Canopy's Leadership

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Treasurer
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Nancy Peterson
Jane Stocklin

Calendar

OCT.	Sat. 19	9 – noon	Tree Planting
	Sat. 26	9 – noon	Tree Planting for PALY "Make a Difference Day"
NOV.	Date TBD	9 – noon	Planting Leader Training
	Mon. 4	9 – noon	Tree Planting for PALY Service Day
	Tues. 12	6:30 – 8 pm	Tree Talk with Kevin Raftery (See page 6.)

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, JAN. 25, 2003, Dr. Michael Hutton will give a talk entitled "People and Trees: Our Longstanding Love Story" exploring the role trees play in many traditions, myths and legends.

CANOPY

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