

CANOPY

FALL 2006

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CANOPY is a Palo Alto-based nonprofit advocate for the urban forest and works to educate, inspire and engage the community as stewards of young and mature trees.



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WANGARI MAATHAI KICKS OFF EAST PALO ALTO TREE INITIATIVE

by Marty Deggeller

"DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT... It is very important for citizens to understand that taking care of the environment is not just the responsibility of the government. It is their responsibility too." Dr. Wangari Maathai emphasized the concept of individual responsibility in efforts to protect the environment at a memorable day for Palo Alto and East Palo Alto on Sunday, April 30, 2006. Dr. Maathai visited both cities to deliver her inspiring message of peace and hope through the simple action of planting a tree. She added, humorously, "If you wait for the government to do things for you, you can wait until, as we say back home, 'cows come home.'"

Dr. Maathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate, in her address, elaborated on why her 30 years of planting over 30 million trees in Kenya had been recognized for a peace prize. "This was the very first time the Norwegian Nobel Committee made this linkage between sustainable management of our resources, governance, and peace," she explained. "The challenge is from now on, we really must think holistically and must see the three themes as being three pillars for the same thing. The Norwegian Nobel Committee wanted



Professor Wangari Maathai, East Palo Alto Mayor Rubin Abrica and Councilwoman Patricia Foster, at the ceremonial planting kick-off of the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative.

to ask the human family to rethink the concept of peace."

Another point made by Dr. Maathai is that it takes ten trees to absorb the carbon dioxide that one person produces. She challenged all of us to be responsible for ensuring we each have ten trees planted to

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Canopy Welcomes New Program Director

By Susan Rosenberg

CANOPY IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE GENEVRA ORNELAS as the new Program Director. On her job appointment Genevra stated, “Science is my life, the foundation of my thinking and decision making.” With the rapidly



growing and changing science of urban forestry, I’m sure she will find many challenges and rewards working with Canopy.

On the job since mid-July, Genevra has wasted no time. She rolled up her sleeves and immediately began work on the city-wide

Young Tree Care Survey conducted by Canopy every summer. Genevra will prepare a report from the survey findings so be sure to check the Canopy website in October for that report.

In addition to overseeing Canopy’s current programs, the monthly Tree Walks, the Right Tree in the Right Place, and the street and park tree plantings, Genevra will be very involved in the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative which will begin planting in the winter.

Genevra was raised in and around Fresno, California, and graduated with a BS in Biology from California State University Fresno. She went on to do field studies for the Kings River Conservation District in Yellowstone National Park.

Genevra has had a growing interest in urban forestry since her years in college. As an intern at *Science Magazine*, the magazine of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, she published several online articles.

We are delighted to have Genevra join us at Canopy.

Volunteer Spotlight: Ruth Lacey—*From Soup to Nuts*

By Susan Rosenberg,



SOUP TO NUTS sounds like a very unusual recipe. But, what it represents is a very special volunteer. Ruth Lacey, for over ten years, has done everything from soup to nuts for Canopy.

Ruth started out on the Tree Task Force appointed by the City Council to gain a clearer understanding of the state of Palo Alto’s urban forest in the early ’90s. The Tree Task Force then made a series of recommendations that

included the creation of a citizen-based organization focused on Palo Alto’s trees. Canopy grew from that initial recommendation.

Ruth’s many contributions to Canopy have helped make it an effective advocate for the urban forest. She has helped keep the public informed of Canopy’s work through videos of interviews with board members and arborists for the local cable network.

In the office, she helps maintain the donor data base and keep files in order.

In addition, Ruth is an avid ham radio operator, a Master Gardener, a member of the League of Women Voters and is an active PANDA (Palo Alto Neighborhood Disaster Activity). She recently spent hours assisting the Palo Alto Police Department reorganize their filing system.

Ruth has been a wonderfully reliable volunteer, and all with a great sense of humor. Canopy’s Board and staff are grateful that Ruth includes Canopy in her recipe for life.

CANOPY RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT FOR WORK IN EAST PALO ALTO

by Marty Deggeller

SHORTLY BEFORE THE WANGARI MAATHAI EVENT ON April 30, 2006 (see cover story), Canopy announced the receipt of a \$142,500 grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to conduct an extensive tree planting in East Palo Alto. The grant provides funding to plant 635 trees. It is a huge first step toward the goal of planting 1,000 trees in East Palo Alto by 2010.

Canopy representatives have worked extensively with city personnel of East Palo Alto to select priority planting sites and to establish tree selection criteria that will offer the highest probability of a successful planting effort. Planting will begin this fall and is currently planned to be completed by the end of 2007.

The areas selected for planting include over two miles of East and West Bayshore Roads along the Highway 101 sound-walls, three medians at the eastern end of University Avenue, and the medians in a five-block stretch of Newbridge Street. These sites are all highly visible entry routes to East Palo Alto and will be noticeably changed when the plantings mature.

Dave Muffly, Canopy board member and certified arborist, has done exhaustive work preparing the planting list and ensuring that appropriately sized trees are used under the numerous utility lines along East and West Bayshore. Currently there are 21 species on the planting list, all of which are drought tolerant, hardy, structurally strong evergreens that are unlikely to disrupt pavement surfaces in the future. Several

flowering species will provide colorful accents within the overall planting scheme.

Much work is currently underway to make the plantings a reality. This includes coordination with

- CalTrans to acquire the permit necessary to plant in the University Avenue median
- East Palo Alto City Council and the Transportation and Public Works Commission to get formal approval to begin the planting
- Jensen Corporation, a landscaping contractor, who will be an active partner in the project to work out the logistics of the planting and irrigation system.

One important goal of the project is to educate and involve the East Palo Alto community about the scope of the project and the benefits to be derived from an enhanced urban forest. To this end, we will be pre-

paring informational brochures, holding public information sessions, and engaging community volunteers in a significant number of tree plantings.

Many members of the East Palo community including Pat Foster, Council Member, Meda Okelo, Community Services Director, Alvin James, City Manager, and Anthony Docto,

Public Works Director, have been instrumental in developing the project and supporting efforts to date. Canopy looks forward to continuing this effort and putting the first trees in the ground this October!



Patricia Foster from East Palo Alto meets with Canopy Executive Director, Catherine Martineau and board members, Susan Rosenberg and Marty Deggeller, to plan the East Palo Alto planting project.

Lockheed Martin Plants Its Tall Tree Award

by Susan Rosenberg

FOR OVER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS THE PALO ALTO CHAMBER of Commerce has presented Tall Tree Awards to an outstanding citizen, professional, and company or organization. For the first time this year, and quite appropriately, each of the recipients received a Young Tree for a Tall Tree Certificate from Canopy to have a tree planted honoring their achievements.

One of this year's recipients, Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Center, chose to have their Young Tree for a Tall Tree planted at their Stanford Research Park location. A white oak, which will provide a dramatic display of fall color, was strategically located outside the office window of Lockheed Martin Vice President, Dr. Jim Ryder. Dr. Ryder was given a hand with the planting by Lockheed Engineer, Eric Westerfeld, who is also a Canopy Planting Leader.



Eric Westerfeld, Lockheed Martin Engineer (center) does the spade work while Dr. Jim Ryder, Vice President, Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Center, and Canopy Board Chair Susan Rosenberg, lend support.

2006-2007

Community Tree Steward Workshops: **Mark Your Calendar Now**

Canopy Again Offers Popular Tree Care Workshops

Canopy is now accepting reservations for its annual workshop series designed to help residents provide better care for their trees and the community urban forest. Priority will be given to those signing up for all five workshops. Participants will receive a certificate upon completion of the series. If you missed some workshops last year, you are welcome to complete the series this year to earn your certificate.

To register, contact Canopy before September 28 at info@canopy.org or (650) 964-6110.

Understanding the Miracle of Community Trees

Dave Dockter, City of Palo Alto Arborist and
Genevra Ornelas, Canopy Program Director
Saturday, September 30: 9–10:30 a.m.
Cubberley Community Center, Room H-6

Selecting and Planting Young Trees

Dave Muffly, Arborist
Saturday, October 7: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
El Camino Park

Improving the Health and Longevity of Your Mature Tree

John McClenahan, Arborist
Saturday, November 4: 9 a.m.–11 a.m.
Cubberley Community Center, Room H-6

Training Young Trees for Structure and Form

Kevin Raftery, Arborist
Saturday, February 10: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Check website for location

Pruning and Managing Fruit Trees

Dave Muffly, Arborist
Saturday, April 21: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Check website for location

2005-2006 Community Tree Steward Workshops:

Stewardship Creates a Special Bond

By Martha Blackwell

MY SON WAS ALMOST FIVE MONTHS OLD WHEN I FIRST noticed an ad for Canopy's Community Tree Steward Workshop Series in "The Palo Alto Daily News". It was exactly what I needed at that point in my life. Learning about trees would be the perfect something that had nothing to do with a baby. The series of five workshops was nicely spaced over time to allow me to sneak away from my family every third Saturday or so for two peaceful hours to myself with trees. I would also be rewarded for the completion of all five workshops with a Community Tree Steward Certificate to display on the kitchen fridge. Even better, the entire series was free.

I'd always felt a special bond with trees but had never taken the time to truly consider that connection. The series turned out to be the extra push I needed to explore my curiosity about trees, allowing me to delve into my inner affinity for them.

The first workshop, "Understanding the Miracle of Community Trees," opened my eyes to the trees that immediately surround us. The urban forest is truly a miracle created and maintained under the care of our community. We play a vital role in caring for these trees. I returned home and, for the first time, truly took notice of the wide variety of trees throughout my Palo Alto neighborhood and considered my job in helping them thrive.

"Improving the Health and Longevity of Your Mature Tree" was the topic of the second workshop. After viewing arborist John McClenahan's slide show of all the injured and problematic trees throughout the area, I couldn't help but begin to notice them everywhere I went. The lessons taught in this workshop have been passed along to many of my neighbors.

On a sunny and slightly brisk morning in November, a large group of us sat out on the field at Greer Park to learn about "Selecting and Planting Young Trees." Local landscape designer Connie Lefkowitz shared the newest way of nurturing a tree with compost teas.

She was later joined by arborist Dave Muffly who walked us through the process of selecting healthy young trees. Since it was an ideal day for planting, Dave and his crew had also arranged for us to have a hands-on planting experience at an adjacent apartment complex. He let us loose with at least 20 Crape Myrtles to plant around the complex.

About three months after our planting workshop (as well as the holiday season), we all returned to learn about "Training Young Trees for Structure and Form." We observed local arborist, Kevin Raftery, perform his artistry on several young trees surrounding the Cubberley Community Center. We learned that well-planned pruning of a young tree is something that will enhance a tree's life as much, if not more than, proper care in its mature years. A pair of nice shears will be the first item on my Christmas list this year.

The final workshop, "Pruning and Managing Fruit Trees," was led by Dave Muffly, a local fruit tree expert. Unfortunately I was unable to attend. I plan to return this fall, however, to attend and help organize Canopy's second Community Tree Steward Workshop Series. After all, my son is now almost 18 months, and I need to complete the final workshop to receive my certificate. Not only that, but the workshops will once again be free. And who can pass up something free in Silicon Valley?



Sunny and brisk in Greer Park: a perfect day to learn about trees.

PLANT A SHADE TREE

by Geneva Ornelas

THIS SWEATY HOT SUMMER HAS GOT YOU CONVINCED—plant a shade tree. But before you do, understand that growing a large shade tree begins long before the tree can provide any substantial shade and even before the tree is planted in the ground. Growing a tree for shade begins in the nursery.

A tree that begins as a healthy nursery baby, and is then raised right, will be more likely to turn into the healthy shade casting adult you like to have around the house. Luckily, the process of selecting good stock can be broken into three easy steps.

1. Begin by looking for lots of healthy leaves. They are the solar panels providing energy to the tree for growing strong and healthy.
2. When you find a nice set of leaves, look at the trunk. Make sure the girth of the trunk can realistically support the weight of the leaves it has developed.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection collaborated with other professional tree organizations such as California Releaf to develop a specific set of guidelines for choosing good nursery stock. As a general rule they recommend that tree girth measured at 6 inches above the soil be .5 to .75 of an inch for a 5-gallon container, .75 to 1.5 inches for a 15-gallon container and 1.5 to 2.5 inches for a 24-inch box. The entire set of guidelines can be found at www.urbantree.org.

Avoid trees with the classic lollipop shape. Although pleasing to the eye, all the leaves sitting on top create a sail effect making them more prone to falling over or growing with a permanently crooked trunk. Instead, look for the feathering effect, trees with branches and leaves concentrated at the top and

more evenly distributed down the sides. Feathering leaves act as a more direct food source to the trunk, enhancing trunk girth, and to the roots, speeding root establishment. Feathering also protects the tree from sunburn by shading the trunk.

3. Finally, it is time to go underground and inspect the roots. This is the most important step because, as Dave Muffly, Certified Arborist and Canopy board member says, “Roots are Key.” Be sure to spend some time at this step because defective rootstock is the main source of bad nursery stock and can result in potentially fatal tree defects.



Figure 1. Find a tree with roots extending out from the trunk like fingers from a hand.



Figure 2. Do not buy trees with roots like this. This root has actually wrapped itself around the square stake!

Begin by poking into the container and feeling around for the top buttress roots, the point at which the roots begin to extend from the trunk. (See Figure 1) The roots should extend in a relatively straight manner like fingers from a hand instead of circling around, or girdling, the trunk.

Notice in Figure 2 that the roots are girdling the tree trunk. This is bad stock. Girdling roots can cause problems such as parts of the tree dying, sudden death, or even the entire tree falling over. Mysteriously, these problems develop underground and may not occur until “decades later,” Muffly said.

Though there are many factors that cause a tree to have a hard time getting established or just flat out fail, choosing a healthy one is great preventative medicine “treement.” Don’t be afraid to leave the nursery empty handed if the stock is unsatisfactory. Politely tell the nursery staff why. This is a way to help plant a small seed of solution that will grow into a large healthy urban forest.

Continued from page 1

“take care of your carbon dioxide.” She also chided us not to count our neighbors’ trees in our total!

Canopy hosted Dr. Maathai, both to celebrate Canopy’s 10th anniversary and to kick off the East Palo Tree Initiative. This initiative will plant 1,000 trees in East Palo Alto by 2010 through a joint effort between Canopy and the City of East Palo Alto. A grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has provided the resources to launch the first phase of this project. (See p. 3 for a story on the grant and the status of the project.)

The April 30 event began with Canopy volunteers planting six trees in a small East Palo Alto park. The new trees symbolically salute the ethnic diversity of East Palo Alto by including species native to Africa, Mexico, the South Pacific, and California. In the afternoon, Dr. Maathai addressed the East Palo Alto community and helped complete the planting of an African olive tree. Over 350 people turned out in unseasonably hot weather to enjoy music and dancing prior to Maathai’s speech and join the festive celebration honoring her presence.

The evening fundraising dinner was attended by over 300 people in the beautifully decorated ballroom at the Crowne Plaza Cabaña Hotel in Palo Alto. Regular

attendees of events at the Cabaña commented that the room “had never looked better.” State Senator Joe Simitian, the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, did an exceptional job maintaining the flow of events. Catherine Martineau, Canopy’s Executive Director, acknowledged the major sponsors of the event and introduced John Goldman, representing the Goldman Environmental Prize. Mr. Goldman, gave a warm introduction to Dr. Maathai who won the Goldman Environmental Prize in 1991.

The evening concluded with a “harambee” led by Meda Okelo and Saree Mading. “Harambee” is a Kenyan term that means coming together for a common purpose. We shared a harambee song that ended the evening on a festive note.

In addition to being an inspiring and uplifting event, the financial results of the evening were equally successful. Canopy cleared nearly \$100,000 at the event. The proceeds will be a major boost to Canopy’s goal of planting 1,000 trees in East Palo Alto.

During the evening, Dr. Maathai congratulated Canopy on our 10 years of existence and looked to the future when she said, “I hope I shall be there to come again and celebrate 20 years of Canopy.” Everyone at Canopy hopes so too.

A TREEmendous Idea for a Gift

No matter what the occasion—birth of a baby, a birthday, an anniversary, to honor a favorite teacher, the holidays, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, graduations, or to honor the memory of a dear friend, a Canopy Tree Planting Gift will never be duplicated. It’s a one-of-a-kind gift that makes it possible for Canopy to plant a new tree in a park or street in Palo Alto or East Palo Alto. Your

honoree will receive a card with your personalized message and the gift will be recognized in the Canopy newsletter. You may choose to give one or several Canopy Tree Planting Gifts for \$50 each, or one or several Canopy Tree Planting and Care Gifts for \$100 each. (Note: due to municipal policies, trees are not individually identified at the site where planted.)

To make a Canopy Tree Gift, call the office at 650.964.6110 or use the form below:

- I would like to have a tree planted in honor of a friend. Enclosed is my \$50 donation.
- I would like to have a tree planted and cared for in honor of a friend. Enclosed is my \$100 donation.
- In honor of: _____
- On the occasion of: _____
- In memory of: _____
- Date (to appear on Tree Gift card): _____

Please notify: _____

Address: _____



Mail this coupon
with your check to:
Canopy
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 30

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Understanding
the Miracle of
Community Trees

Saturday, October 7

9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Selecting and
Planting Young Trees

Sunday, October 8

11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Community Day at
Gamble Gardens

Saturday, October 14

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Tree walk: Community
Center

Saturday, November 4

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Improving the
Health and Longevity
of Your Mature Tree

*Professor Wangari
Maathai and
Catherine Martineau,
Canopy Executive
Director, at Canopy's
10th Anniversary
celebration,
April 30, 2006*



Canopy's Leadership

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