

CANOPY

Canopy, a Palo Alto-based non-profit, advocates for the urban forest and works to educate, inspire and engage the community as stewards of young and mature trees.

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First Phase of East Palo Alto Tree Initiative Complete

Nearly 1,000 Trees Planted

By Marty Deggeller

Since the first of this year stunning changes have occurred in East Palo Alto along East and West Bayshore Roads. Close to 1,000 trees have been added to the planting strips adjacent to the soundwalls along Highway 101. This effort, a collaboration between Canopy, the City of East Palo Alto, and the California Department of Forestry, is the first phase of the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative. The Initiative was launched on Sunday, April 30, 2006, with the visit of Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate. She planted six trees at the intersection of Bay and Newbridge Roads in the afternoon. That evening she spoke at a fundraising dinner as part of Canopy's 10th Anniversary celebration.

Muffly works around complex design criteria: Dave Muffly, a Canopy board member and ISA Certified arborist, designed the impressive planting that included a number of complex constraints. For instance, the City of East Palo Alto asked that evergreen trees be planted to avoid the need for significant clean up during periods of leaf drop. Alkaline soil conditions further limited tree choices as did the proximity of overhead utility lines, drought and saline tolerance, and structural integrity. The design also minimizes long runs of the same species and incorporates groupings of flowering trees to create an interesting transition from one run of trees to the next. Muffly's plan features 20 different tree species including several unusual choices seldom seen in public spaces (see "Featured Trees Along the Soundwall," p. 3).

Understory trees included: Another unusual aspect of the planting is the incorporation of understory trees beneath the taller trees. This approach was used to increase the density of the planting and provide additional sound wall screening. *(continued on page 2)*



East Palo Alto Vice Mayor Patricia Foster inspects the first trees planted alongside the West Bayshore sound wall.

EPA Tree Initiative Trains Community Teens

Notable elements of the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative are the training and part-time jobs provided to the youth living in East Palo Alto. Ten teens from East Palo Alto were trained in various aspects of the project including building the irrigation system, preparing the root balls of trees, assembling tree shelters for the acorns, and acorn planting techniques. They in turn used their knowledge to train and direct volunteers during community workdays.

Those teens represent a cross section of the community's diverse population and include an even mix of boys and girls. The Opportunity Industrial Center West (OICW), located in Menlo Park, has been a key partner in this program: they identified and selected the youth; provided a location for training and the assembly of materials. They also supplied administrative support. Jensen Corporation and Canopy personnel provided job training, mentoring, and supervisory resources.

The energy and enthusiasm of the kids brought a sense of vitality and fun to everyone who had the pleasure of working with them.



(continued from page 1)

The creation of an understory also gave Canopy the opportunity to try something different; namely, planting trees from seeds and acorns. While this approach is new to Canopy, Muffly has years of experience planting thousands of seeds and acorns on Stanford University property with amazingly successful results. The seed and acorn plantings are distinguishable along East and West Bayshore by the 3 feet tall green tubular shelters that are placed over the seeds. These shelters provide a greenhouse environment, facilitate upward growth and protect the seeds during the critical early stages of development.

Jensen Corporation partners in project: Canopy has traditionally done all of its tree plantings through volunteer events. The sheer magnitude of this project, however, and the need for the installation of nearly two miles of irrigation required working with a professional landscape contractor.

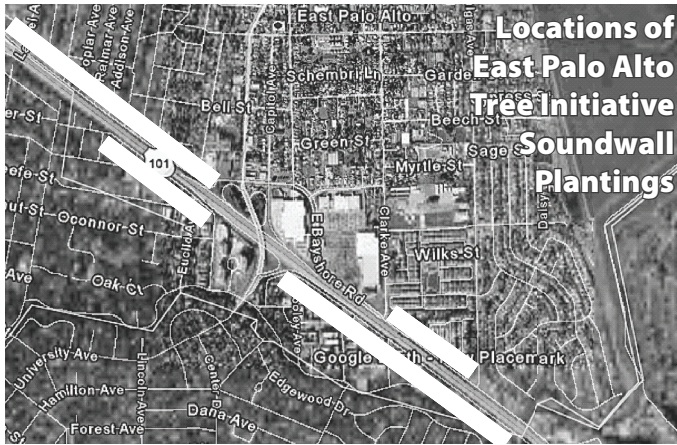
Jensen, one of the leading landscape construction companies in Northern California, stepped forward to install the irrigation system and plant the more than 560 5-gallon and 15-gallon trees in a short time period. Jensen also agreed to work without profit which made it possible to plant even more trees than originally anticipated.

Our volunteers ensure success: As Jensen crews were trenching and installing the irrigation system, our volunteers prepared the trees for planting. Each tree was removed from its container and the root balls untangled, allowing the roots to radiate outward. This is considered a crucial step by Muffly to allow the young trees to grow into well rooted, healthy trees. In addition to the rootball work, volunteers planted hundreds of seeds and acorns.

EPA Tree Initiative continues this fall: The next phase of the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative will begin in the fall planting season starting this October. During this phase, Jensen will plant 76 trees in the medians of Newbridge Street between Saratoga and Poplar Avenues, and University Avenue from O'Brien Drive to beyond Purdue Avenue. Canopy and the City of East Palo Alto are working together to identify other priority planting areas within the city.

While completing the East and West Bayshore plantings marked a major milestone, Canopy foresees additional work with the City of East Palo Alto to enhance their urban forest. But for now, it's time to celebrate this significant planting and look forward to the future tree canopy in East Palo Alto!

EPA youth learn to assemble irrigation parts. (Photo: Geneva Ornelas)



Youth planting along sound wall, East Palo Alto. Tubes shelter for growing tree seeds. (Photo: Geneva Ornelas)

Featured Trees Along the Soundwall *by Dave Muffly*

All of the trees being planted by Canopy in East Palo Alto were carefully chosen for their drought tolerance, structural soundness, benign rooting characteristics, pollution tolerance, and aesthetics. Featured here are four of the chosen species.

Island Oak (*Quercus tomentella*)

Native to the Channel Islands off the coast of southern California, this ornamental, upright, evergreen oak is the rarest of California's native oaks. It no longer grows naturally on the mainland of California, though healthy cultivated trees can be found throughout the state. Five million year old fossils of Island Oak have been found at St. Mary's College in Oakland, suggesting that Island Oak was once common in the Bay Area, including East Palo Alto, when the climate was very different from today.

African Olive (*Olea africana*)

This beautiful and tough olive tree, from the savannas of Africa, is closely related to the European olive planted throughout California. The African olive has smaller fruits, denser growth, and a golden cast to the underside of the leaf, while the leaf underside of the European olive appears silver. African olives grow well in California, though its homeland in Africa includes parts of Kenya, the homeland of Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai.

Net Leaf Oak (*Quercus rugosa*)

Dense, upright, and evergreen Net Leaf Oak, though native to the American southwest and northern Mexico, grows wonderfully in coastal California. It is a choice oak among arborists and horticulturalists. This tree, thanks to a thick layer of hair on the underside of its leaves, is especially good for removing particulate matter from polluted air, making it a natural for freeway planting.

Primrose Tree, Cow Itch Tree (*Lagunaria patersonii*)

Why Cow Itch? The seed pods of this ultra-tough member of the Primrose family contain small, stiff hairs. Exposure to the pods will make you itch, unless you're a cow. The term 'cow itch' comes from a common name confusion with the cowage plant. Early summer brings profuse and beautiful pink to white flowers. This dense, durable, upright evergreen tree is perfect for use along the sound walls, where the seed pods will not cause a nuisance, and the flowers can be appreciated by many.



Quercus tomentella



Olea africana



Quercus rugosa



Lagunaria patersonii



After the tree planting, former Mayor Judy Kleinberg speaks about the significance of trees for the future of Palo Alto. (Left to right) Genevra Ornelas, Susan Rosenberg, Judy Kleinberg and Catherine Martineau. (Photo: Jim Kleinberg)

Mayor's Planting & Annual Party— Canopy Honors Community and Volunteer Efforts

By Susan Rosenberg

A crowd of more than fifty people met at Rinconada Park on January 11 to honor former Mayor Judy Kleinberg with the planting of a tree of her choice, a redwood. This tradition, started years ago, recognizes the continuing vision provided by Palo Alto's mayors and City Council toward the well-being of our urban forest. During Mayor Kleinberg's term she convened the Green Ribbon Task Force and invited Canopy's participation in looking at ways for Palo Alto to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Immediately following the planting, speeches, and picture-taking, the group moved to Lucie Stern Community Center for the Annual Party. As part of the celebration, Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss presented a Certificate of Commendation to several recipients. Canopy Board Chair Susan Rosenberg presented the *Arnold Soforenko Award*. Arnold was a founding board member. This award honors his memory and is given annually to those who have gone the extra mile, often at significant expense, to preserve the urban forest.

The *Out On A Limb Award*, made to Canopy volunteers, is given to those who have gone the extra mile to further our mission with their time. We're quite pleased to announce that last year the total volunteer hours logged was over 3,000 or approximately \$90,000 of work donated to the community.

"Out On A Limb" Award Recipients

Each year we recognize those volunteers who have gone "Out On A Limb" to further our mission. Diligent, reliable, and available, Sibby Coxhead and Sairus Patel were the recipients of the *Out On A Limb Award*.

Sibby Coxhead, a regular at Canopy's monthly Saturday morning Tree Walks, didn't hesitate a moment when she learned that Canopy was looking for a volunteer for administrative tasks. She is in the office twice a week to work on the database. She also coordinates and edits the newsletter, participates in our tree plantings and has designed a Tree Walk for the residents of Oak Creek Apartments.

Sairus Patel, an employee of Adobe, donated Adobe software. His true claim to fame, however, is his record of completing the most routes for the Young Tree Care Survey. Each route involves recording the health of young street trees on a designated route and can take anywhere from 2-4 hours to complete. Last summer Sairus completed ten routes, far more than anyone else.

2007 Arnold Soforenko Award Recipients

Pat Foster—East Palo Alto Tree Initiative

For years, East Palo Alto Council Member Pat Foster had a dream that her community would be planted with hundreds more trees. And for years, she talked about the possibility of making it happen. Her tenacious persistence has paid off. That dream is now a reality (read more on the front page). To many residents, trees were seen as a much needed addition to their community, but were far down on the list of necessities. Working with Canopy, Pat was able to realize the dream at weekly meetings with fellow Council members, city staff, and residents. Close to a thousand new trees now line the streets of East and West Bayshore Roads in East Palo Alto. It is truly a remarkable sight.

Judith and Hans Steiner—Residential Project

The overriding design consideration for the demolition and new construction of the Steiners' home near Gamble Garden was to preserve the 60 foot Valley Oak, *Quercus lobata*, that stands near the center of their lot. At every step of the process they kept the long-term health of their oak as a priority. Architect Jerome Buttrick designed the center of the home around the drip line of the oak. The extensive use of glass walls extends the interior living spaces outdoors to the oak tree.

Judith and Hans were committed to design as soft a footprint as possible with respect to the mandatory essentials of home building in today's world. Their project is a perfect example of how community goals and reality can come together. The end product is a new home built around an ancient tree. They will fit together for another 100 years, allowing for peaceful living under the seasonal shade and wildlife activity surrounding the tree.

Owners:	Hans and Judith Steiner
City Arborist:	Dave Dockter
Site Arborist:	John McClenahan
Architect:	Jerome Buttrick
Contractor:	Rich Sherrill
Landscape Architect:	Toni Heron

The Opportunity Center—Community Development

Two Coast Live Oaks, *Quercus agrifolia*, and a Coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, were initially seen as major constraints to maximizing the building site for The Opportunity Center. The three mature trees became transforming agents, however, for those involved with the project. The building, which now provides housing and services for homeless men, women and children of the mid-peninsula, is cooled, calmed and shaded by the trees.

An outdoor courtyard and popular gathering area were created when the building walls were curved around the drip line of the Coast Live oaks. The interior recreation room has a large, concave wall of glass that brings the tree "inside". The redwood tree gives residents on the four floors of housing on the NE corner of the building the feel of living in a tree house.

The Opportunity Center of Palo Alto project is a result of many complex processes and competing goals coming together. It shaped and produced an outcome that is rare.

Developer:	Community Working Group Don Barr, President
City Arborist:	Dave Dockter
Site Arborist:	David Babby
Architect:	Rob Quigley
Site Superintendent:	Frank Wall
Project Manager:	Smitha Seshadri
General Contractor:	Segue Construction
Demolition Contractor:	FERMA



Canopy in Our Volunteers' Hearts... Estate Planning with Deep Roots

By Susan Rosenberg

Pria Graves and George Koerner have found a special place for Canopy in their hearts and lives, and now in their estate planning.

Pria and George have planted trees with Canopy since the organization was first founded. But they were not content to let their efforts end there. Both have taken the important step of including Canopy in their estate planning. When the time comes that they're no longer here to volunteer with Canopy, their gift will ensure the work goes on.

In 1996 they were among the first volunteers who dug holes and planted Chinese pistache trees along Yale Street in their College Terrace neighborhood. They went the extra mile, though, before the holes were even dug. Sledge hammers were needed to remove 100 feet of concrete from the planting strip. Neither one flinched at using the heavy tools to make way for trees.

Several years ago Pria and George spearheaded a planting at the park next to the College Terrace Library in memory of a resident who had been a leader in neighborhood issues. They have been available for plantings, the tree care survey and, more recently, massaging the root balls of trees planted along the sound walls in East Palo Alto.

Pria is retired from Cisco where she worked on data communications software. With more time available, she now paints botanical art. Her work has been shown at

Filoli, Houston's Natural History Museum, and the Portland Home & Garden Show. She has also published in *Pacific Horticulture*, the West Coast gardeners' magazine.

George is retired from NASA as an accounting programmer. A few years ago he noticed some of Canopy's newly planted street trees weren't being watered by a neighbor. Carrying buckets of water, he made sure the young trees received adequate water during the summer.

Pria and George love to travel, but when they're in Palo Alto they prefer to walk or bike and are happy to be doing it under the shade of Palo Alto's wonderful trees.

To explore estate planning with Canopy, contact Catherine Martineau, Executive Director, at 650.964.6110.



Pria Graves and George Koerner, volunteers who put Canopy in their wills. (Photo: Susan Rosenberg)

A favorite quote from George...

When I die, she said, I'm coming back as a tree with deep roots and I'll wave my leaves at the children every morning on their way to school and whisper tree songs at night in their dreams. Trees with deep roots know about the things children need.

—from *Deep Roots* by Brian Andreas



Canopy volunteer, Ayako Kanamatsu, "working root balls!" (Photo: Catherine Martineau)

Why I Plant Trees with Canopy

By Ayako Kanamatsu

My name is Ayako, and recently I was granted Permanent Residency after living in the United States of America for over 18 years. This means I now have my "Green Card".

When I got my Green Card, I knew I wanted to find a way to set down my roots symbolically. I wanted to plant a tree. I live in a complex where there is no room for me to plant a tree on my own, but I wanted to somehow be part of planting a tree. I found an organization near where I live, CANOPY, in Palo Alto.

I contacted the office the day after I got my Green Card. Then I visited the office and told the staff about my situation. Next thing I knew, that weekend I was contributing my time at a volunteer opportunity. We were "working root balls," taking trees out of their pots and loosening the roots to prepare them to go in the ground.

I celebrated my happiness and my achievement with fellow volunteers by helping with some trees to be planted in the near future. I'm starting a new chapter of my life with Canopy and the trees.

A TREEmendous Idea for a Gift



No matter what the occasion—the birth of a baby, a birthday, an anniversary, the holidays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, or to honor a favorite teacher or the memory of a dear friend—a Canopy Tree Gift is original and thoughtful. This gift will make it possible for Canopy to plant a new tree in a park or along a street in Palo Alto or East Palo Alto. The recipient will receive a card with your personalized message and your gift will be recognized in the Canopy annual report. You may choose to give one or several Canopy Tree Gifts for \$50 each, or one or several Canopy Tree and Care Gifts for \$100 each. (Note: due to city policies, trees are not individually identified at the planting site.)

To make a Canopy Tree Gift call the office at 650.964.6110 or use the form on this coupon.

Mail this coupon with your check
and contact information to:



CANOPY
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

I would like to make:

_____ Tree Gifts at \$50 each, # _____ Tree & Care Gifts at \$100 each

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Please check one:*

_____ In honor of _____ In memory of

Name: _____

Please notify: _____

Address: _____

*For more than one recipient please include the information above on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to this coupon. Thank you!

MARCH 2007

CELEBRATE ARBOR MONTH

coming events

Sat., March 3

Trees, Birds & People in the City

John M. Marzluff
Prof. Wildlife Science
9am–noon
PA Art Center Aud.

Sat., March 10

Tree Walk

Kevin Raftery
Certified Arborist
10am–noon
Greenmeadow
Community Ctr.

Sat., March 17

Tree Planting

9am–noon
PA Municipal Golf
Course

Wed., March 21

Watershed Management & Urban Ecology

Andy Lipkis, Pres.
TreePeople
7–9 pm
with Acterra
USGS, Menlo Park

Sat., March 24

Tree Planting

9am–noon
East Palo Alto YMCA

Sat., April 14

Tree Walk

Dave Muffly,
Certified Arborist
10–noon
Gamble Garden

Sat., April 21

Pruning & Managing Fruit Trees

Tree Steward
Workshop #5

Canopy Leadership

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Catherine Martineau
Executive Director
Genevra Ornelas
Program Director

Board of Directors

Susan Rosenberg
Chair
Forest Preston, III
Vice-Chair
Lanie Wheeler
Treasurer
Anne Draeger
Secretary
Martha Blackwell
Urban K. Cummings
John McClenahan
Dave Muffly
Brooks Nelson

Advisory Committee

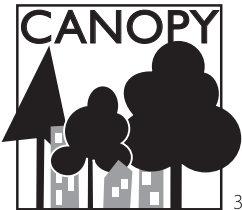
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Leannah Hunt
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