

Coming Events

Sunday, June 12
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Red Cross Kneeling Oak Workday

Wednesday, June 22
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Tree Care Survey

Saturday, June 25
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tree Care Survey

Saturday, September 17
9 am to 12 noon
Ivy Busters, Mitchell Park

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Help Kepler's Help Canopy

AS THIS MENLO PARK BOOKSTORE celebrates fifty years of community involvement, mention Canopy when making a purchase and Kepler's will donate 5% to help support Canopy's programs. This is a great way to support both an outstanding independent bookstore and Canopy.

Canopy Thanks Our Generous Business Donors

Canopy has recently received significant cash and in-kind gifts from the following businesses:

- Roche Palo Alto: Grant & donation of a Chevy Astro cargo van
- Agilent: Grant
- Palo Alto Weekly: Print advertising
- Stocklin Capital Management: Office furniture

CANOPY

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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.



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CANOPY'S MATURE TREE PROGRAM: Caring for Trees throughout Their Life Cycle

YOU MAY ALREADY BE FAMILIAR WITH Canopy's Planting and Young Tree Care programs. But are you familiar with our Mature Tree Care program? Canopy strives to care for our urban forest in all its stages—we plant new trees, make sure they are watered and cared for during the vulnerable first five years, and make sure they are given the right conditions to maximize their life and vitality. This last part is the aim of the Mature Tree Care program, which seeks to extend the lives of mature public trees and to educate the public on the proper care of mature trees. The program focuses on (but is not limited to) three main topics: fungus, ivy and water.

Fungus Among Us

Several species of parasite fungi live almost everywhere in Bay Area soils. Given the right conditions, such as consistent and excess moisture, these fungi will become active and begin to decay a tree. Unaddressed, fungus will cause long term decline and early death of the tree. Fungus becomes a problem when the root crown (also called the root flare; the area where the roots meet the trunk) of your tree is wet, especially

during warm weather. This happens when the root crown is in a consistently wet environment, such as when there is soil or plant material surrounding the base of the tree. Root crown fungus dies when it is exposed to air; thus the life of the tree is prolonged when the root crown is dry and exposed to air.

Below: The root flare of a coast live oak after it has been excavated from surrounding dirt.



Attacking the Giant Green Snot Gob

Part of protecting trees from fungus includes removing ivy, lawn and other competing plants from the area around

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CANOPY'S MATURE TREE CARE PROGRAM — *continued from cover*

the tree. These plants can hide defects such as areas of decay, and can trap moisture around the root crown, creating the perfect environment for fungus. Garbage collects under ivy and it creates a breeding ground for rats. Ivy can be such an eyesore to tree lovers that Cass Turnbull, founder of Plant Amnesty, dubbed it “the giant green snot gob.” Ideally all competing plants within the dripline should be removed. Laying mulch around the trunk, but leaving the root crown exposed, can help keep ivy and other plants from returning.

Water, Water, Water

Watering advice can be confusing. When trees are young (in the first five years after they are planted) they need to be watered weekly no matter what the species. Once they get past those first five years, watering advice becomes a bit more nuanced. Native trees, mainly coast live oaks and valley oaks, are adapted to our wet winters and dry summers and do not need to be watered except in extreme circumstances. Watering can actually cause harm to the tree by creating an environment suitable for fungus growth. Other species of trees, such as birch and southern magnolia, come from moister climates and will need regular water throughout their lives. No matter what the species, it's important to keep water away from the trunk of the tree — the root flare environment. Watering should take place away from the trunk, but within the dripline. Sprinklers should be placed so that they do not spray directly onto the trunk—doing so can wear away a tree's bark and leave a wound.

Join the Club!

Canopy's Ivy Busters workdays put volunteers to work removing ivy from around the mature trees in Palo Alto's parks. This extends the life of the trees and adds to the beauty of the parks. We always welcome more volunteers to help out. Our next Ivy Busters workday will be held September 17, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in

Mitchell Park near the Mitchell Park Library.

We will be working in conjunction with Friends of the Palo Alto Parks. All volunteers will be eligible to enter a raffle drawing for prizes donated by local companies, including a cooking class from Draeger's, a free one-hour consultation from The Care of Trees, a body treatment from Watercouse Way, a fabulous chocolate cake and more! We need volunteers to help pull ivy, bake cookies, work the registration and raffle tables, set up and clean up. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Canopy.



Program Director Jana Dille teaches Girl Scout Troop 435 about tool safety before they get to work removing ivy.

Don't Wait for an S.O.S. from Your Tree—Water Now!

WE MAY HAVE HAD A WET WINTER in Palo Alto this year, but that doesn't mean your young trees won't need your help during the hot, dry summer months. Trees need a little extra TLC during the first five years after they are planted. This includes weekly watering during the summer. A slow trickle of water from the hose for about 30 minutes will promote deep root growth, allowing your tree to sustain itself in the future. You should water in the area between the trunk and the dripline. The dripline is the imaginary line to the ground created by

Continued next page

Ask the Arborist

Do you have a burning tree question? Send it to Canopy at ask@canopy.org. We'll compile your questions and publish the answers from arborists. Here's this issue's question and answer:

Why are some once-popular trees no longer planted?

by **Bruce W. Hagen, Urban Forester, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**

Many tree species once commonly planted in California have faded in popularity. Reasons for this include poor adaptability, susceptibility to common pests, litter or other nuisance problems, hazard potential, and tendency to damage infrastructure. Invasiveness, pollen and allergy potential, and biogenic emissions have also been added to the list more recently. The introduction of new, destructive pests is quickly becoming the principal factor affecting the health, longevity, and value of our urban and rural trees.

Once-common trees that have fallen from grace include Monterey pine, elm, eucalyptus and redwood. You can find out more on these trees in the Fall 2004 issue of *California Trees*, available at www.californiareleaf.org/education.html.

You'll also find a wealth of information about tree pests and diseases on the Internet:

- **Bark beetles of North America:** www.bugwood.org/barkbeetles/index.html
- **California Oak Mortality Task Force:** www.suddenoakdeath.org
- **California Oak Disease and Arthropod Database:** <http://phytosphere.com/coda/>
- **Pitch Canker Task Force:** http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/pitch_canker/
- **Pine pitch canker information:** [www.cnr.berkeley.edu/forestry/curr_proj/pitch/pitch.html](http://cnr.berkeley.edu/forestry/curr_proj/pitch/pitch.html) and <http://www.ci.manhattan-beach.ca.us/pubworks/lerp/hagen.html>
- **Pests of eucalyptus trees:** <http://cnr.Berkeley.edu/biocon/dahlsten/rglp/index.htm>, and <http://www.ci.manhattan-beach.ca.us/pubworks/lerp/hagen.html>
- **CDF web site for pest management:** www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/ForestPest.asp
- **Forest pests of North America:** www.forestpests.org/
- **Insect pests & plant diseases in Southern**

California: <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us/scripts/pestpdf.htm>

- **UC Davis Integrated Pest Management:** www.ipm@ucdavis.edu
- **USDA Forest Service Forest Insect and Disease Leaflets:** www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidl.htm

Following are some strategies for minimizing future pest and disease problems:

Think diversity. A broader diversity of trees in our urban landscapes will guard against the possibility of large-scale devastation by both native and introduced insect and disease pests.

Select from a broad palette of plants. Plant no more than 10 percent of any species, no more than 20 percent of any genus, and no more than 30 percent of any family.

Survey your neighborhood/city/region and determine which trees are most successful.

Analyze the site conditions and select a tree species that is most adaptable to those conditions.

Review the environmental tolerances of the candidate species. Characterize the native habitat, e.g., riparian, bottomland, swamp, upland, ridge top, rich valley bottoms, canyons, arid zone. Try to match the environmental tolerances to the site conditions.

Consider hardiness. Use the Sunset Climate Zones and maps. The zones account for latitude, elevation, coastal influence, the continental air influence, influence of mountains and hills, local terrain, winter lows, summer highs, length of growing season, humidity and rainfall patterns.

Develop a species profile for each tree by collecting data regarding the tree's characteristics, tolerances, requirements, etc., and then compile the information into a tree selection matrix. Select trees that are adaptable to a wide range of conditions.

If planting blocks or strips of uniformity (species, cultivars, or clones of proven adaptability) scatter them throughout the city to achieve spatial as well as biological diversity.

Reduce the potential for disease spread through natural root grafts, which can occur when the same species of tree is planted along streets. Break up the continuity by using different species or species from a different genus.

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Two New Local Tree Books

by Susan Rosenberg

“TROUBLED” IS THE ONLY WORD I can use to describe my Paly High son’s reaction to finding a book on the coffee table titled, *Bark: The formation, characteristics, and uses of bark around the world*. I assume he was deathly afraid of what his buddies would think had they known I read books on tree bark.

It’s been years since that incident. *Bark* now resides on my bookshelf. In its place on the coffee table are two newly published books, *Trees of Stanford and Environs*, by Ron N. Bracewell, and *Trees of Los Altos*, by Ann Coombs. I recently found my son on the sofa, thumbing through both, looking for his favorite and familiar trees.

Ron N. Bracewell, the L.M. Terman Professor of Electrical Engineering Emeritus at Stanford is also a mathematician, a physicist, and a radio astronomer. His interest in trees began during his boyhood in Australia and has continued since moving to this area in 1955.

Bracewell’s book is full of the “nuts and bolts” of more than 350 species of trees located on the Stanford campus. Trees are listed by botanical name, common name, and in some cases, their common Spanish names. In many cases the descriptive information has been culled from science, history, mythology, and language. For example, regarding the Canary Island Date Palm, *Phoenix canariensis*, I learned that it is the tree that lines Stanford University’s Palm Drive. “The name Phoenix comes from Phoenicia, a section of the east Mediterranean coast. The Phoenicians, who were Canaanites, adopted a seafaring life and acquired a ruddy weather-beaten complexion that earned them their name, phoinikos (meaning “red” in Greek).”

The book lacks color photographs but does include full-size silhouettes of many of the different leaves. Also included are the web site addresses for a number of local and international organizations related to trees, including Canopy: Trees for Palo Alto. Seven easy-to-read tree maps are included in the appendix for those who want to see the actual trees. With this book Bracewell couldn’t have made it easier for you to visit and learn more about the trees of Stanford.

Ann Coombs’ *Trees of Los Altos*, is a pictorial guide filled with color photographs of each tree from the

wide variety of trees found in Los Altos, California. If you want to learn more about the trees in your yard or you’re considering planting a new tree, Coombs’ book has information that will help you make that decision and an address to see, first-hand, what a full grown tree will look like. She has also included a valuable list of recommendations for planting under power lines or near streams.

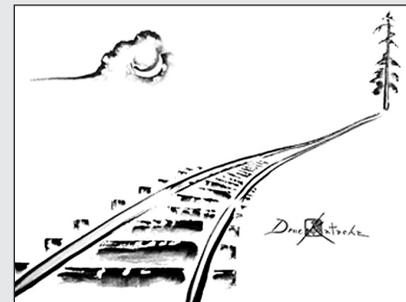
Like Palo Alto and Stanford, Los Altos has a number of large, stately oaks throughout the city. To prevent further loss of the treasured trees Coombs has included a chapter titled, “Loving Care of Old Oak Trees” with detailed advice on how to keep oaks healthy.

And for those who enjoy the spectacular aesthetics trees provide, she has included a calendar of trees with flowers or brightly colored leaves for year-round viewing.

Both my son and I are grateful to the authors for the wonderful resources they have provided.

Trees of Stanford and Environs can be purchased for \$21.95 at the Stanford Bookstore on the campus and at the University Avenue location. *Trees of Los Altos* can be purchased for \$12 at the Los Alto City Hall, the Main Street Book & Café, or Linden Tree Book Store in Los Altos.

Pacific Ruminations



Drue Kataoka’s painting features El Palo Alto, Palo Alto’s eponymous *Sequoia sempervirens*.

Master Sumi-e artist Drue Kataoka recently unveiled “Pacific Ruminations.” The Japanese brush painting is a tribute to El Palo Alto, as well as to the spirit of innovation this community is renowned for. Proceeds from the sale of this limited edition commemorative print benefit the Pacific Art League. For more information visit www.drue.net.

Continued from previous page

the farthest-out branches. Remember: sprinkling 5 to 10 minutes does more harm than good because it only brings roots closer to the surface instead of encouraging them to grow deep.

You can further care for your tree by making sure that lawn, ivy and other competing plants have been pulled back from the trunk as far as possible, ideally to the dripline. Ivy and lawn compete with the tree for water and nutrients and can contribute to problems such as fungal decay. You should also be sure to remove the stakes from your tree one to two years after it has been planted or once the roots have gained a solid footing. Failure to remove the stakes can lead to wounds in the trunk and branches, which can increase the risk of disease and pest infections. (See “*Tree Staking for the Budding Tree Care Amateur*”; *Autumn 2002 Canopy Newsletter*, page 4.)

Just as in years past, Canopy volunteers will be making the rounds of the City this year to check on the health of our young street trees. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Canopy. And when you see Canopy volunteers go by your street, be sure to say hello and thanks!

Canopy at Work in the Community

OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS, Canopy has been busy teaming up with local organizations in a variety of programs all aimed at fostering a better understanding our urban forest and taking an active part in its care. Canopy helped **Ohlone School** write and win a California Department of Forestry planting grant. This grant allowed the school’s kids, with the help of their teachers and parents, to plant 30 trees in March around the school’s play areas. To maximize shade, color and beauty, increase plant diversity, and provide varied educational opportunities, the project leaders decided to plant a combination of native redwoods, valley oaks, and black walnuts. Non-native Chinese pistache, tulip tree, ginkgo, and red maples rounded out the selection. Also in partnership with Ohlone School, Canopy



Canopy teamed up with Agilent to plant ten new trees at their Deer Creek site during an Earth Day employee workday.

sponsored a Project Learning Tree workshop which offered educators free quality curriculum that allows them to incorporate trees in their everyday lesson plans.

Canopy’s educational work continued with a presentation to kindergartners at **Escondido Elementary School**, where kids learned about different species of trees and their benefits. We also hosted learning tables at **Ikea** and **Roche Palo Alto** during their Earth Day celebrations where we taught children and adults to identify the leaves, acorns and fruit of several native tree species. In addition to Canopy’s participation in Roche’s Sustainability Fair, Roche employees joined Canopy to plant 19 trees including tristania, copper beech, red maple and incense cedar with the help of the City of Palo Alto in the new Heritage Park in downtown Palo Alto.

Agilent, another Palo Alto business, also called on Canopy to organize an Earth Day employee workday. Together we planted 10 new Chinese pistache, arbutus, crab apple and crape myrtle trees at their Deer Creek site.

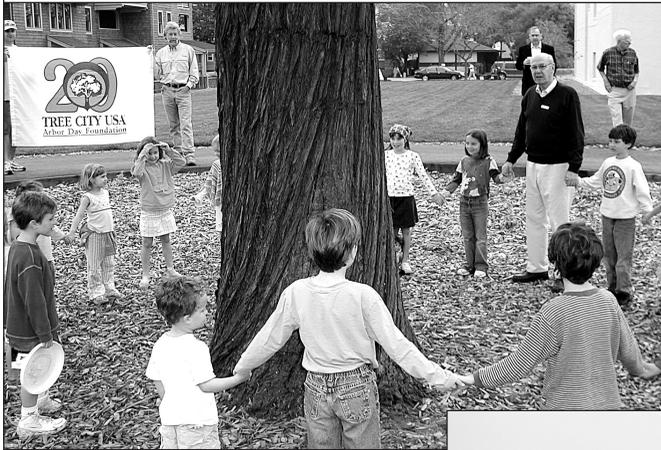
The good work doesn’t stop there, and you too can lend a hand: On June 12, Canopy will be working with the **Palo Alto Red Cross** to help save the chapter’s “kneeling oak” which was damaged in a recent winter storm. Please let Canopy know if you are interested in helping out with this or any other event.

Canopy's Arbor Month Celebration a Smashing Success!



Gamble Garden's Director of Horticulture, Merrill Jensen led a Tree Walk with Canopy's Program Director Jana Dilley to highlight the unique trees on the Gamble property.

Volunteers teamed up with Canopy and the City of Palo Alto to give temporary homes to apricot trees which will be planted in Briones Park this fall.



Mayor Jim Burch joins children around a redwood tree during the opening of the new Heritage Park in downtown Palo Alto.

Volunteers from the Palo Alto Kiwanis and local Paly Key Club joined Canopy to plant new trees at the Palo Alto Golf Course.



Know Your Street Trees: Tristania



THE TRISTANIA FAMILY OF TREES are hardy evergreens with slow growth and interesting bark. Once established, they require little watering—and they can grow in poor soil with poor drainage in sunny, shady, or even foggy locations, making them a favorite in San Francisco. Variants include the *tristania laurina* (small leaf tristania, aka Water Gum or Swamp Myrtle) and *tristania laurina* 'elegant', both of which have clusters of small yellow flowers in the spring. They typically grow 15 to 25 feet with a 15-foot spread

and are, therefore, a good candidate for planting under power lines. The "elegant" variety has wider leaves and its new growth is reddish in color. The *tristania conferta* (Brisbane Box), whose flowers are white, can grow to 60 feet.

Canopy and volunteers from Roche recently planted new tristania in the new downtown Heritage Park (see page 3 of this newsletter). You can find more details about this (and many other street trees) in the "Tree Library" on the Canopy web site (www.canopy.org/db)

Volunteer Spotlight: "Human Race"

ON SATURDAY, MAY 7, two Canopy volunteers joined Canopy staff early in the morning at Shoreline Park to walk a 5k and run a 10k. They were part of the Human Race, a fundraising effort put on by the Volunteer Center of Silicon Valley. The Human Race raises money for local non-profits by challenging people to a 10k or 5k run or 5k walk in support of their favorite non-profit organization.

Participants collect pledges in return for completing the course. Total, volunteers helped raise \$2,500 to support Canopy's urban forestry programs. Pledges came in from such diverse places as France, Maryland, and Minnesota. Even employees at SkyStream Networks in Sunnyvale pitched in to help with the effort.

There's still time to make a post-race pledge to Canopy before June 15. You may do so by going to Canopy's web site, www.canopy.org/human-race. Thanks to all the volunteers and donors who helped make the Human Race a success!

To volunteer with Canopy, please contact Program Director Jana Dilley at 650.964.6110 or by e-mail at jana@canopy.org

Trees for El Camino Project Update

by Susan Rosenberg

PLANS FOR THE SECOND PHASE of the Trees for El Camino Project median planting are now in the hands of Caltrans which has jurisdiction over El Camino Real and must give its approval before the City of Palo Alto can proceed. Chris Rafferty, landscape architect for the City of Palo Alto, anticipates hearing from Caltrans by the first week in June.

The medians included in this phase are: Dinah's Court to Monroe Drive (at Adobe Creek), Los Robles Avenue to Maybell Avenue, Wilton Avenue to Matadero Avenue, and Park Boulevard to Stanford Avenue. The trees, a mix of London plane, red maple, oak, and redwood, will provide a canopy of shade over the busy thoroughfare.

The Trees for El Camino Project, a Palo Alto based nonprofit, spearheaded the project and raised \$250,000 toward the purchase and planting of these trees. The first phase of the project, completed in January, 2004, included medians between Embarcadero Road and Park Boulevard.