

# 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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## An Evening With Remarkable Trees... and the man who wrote the books

By Susan Rosenberg

Under the cool shade of a ring of London Plane trees, on the beautiful Summer Solstice evening in June, renowned author and photographer, Thomas Pakenham, told an audience of nearly 200 people, "Of course it's in California that the world's tallest, largest and oldest trees grow." Many of the remarkable trees found in Pakenham's books are located in California so he was delighted to be asked by Canopy to travel from his home in Ireland to Palo Alto as the keynote speaker for Canopy's fundraising dinner.

*"Our future remarkable trees are being planted now."*

Pakenham has explored five continents over the last ten years searching for the extraordinary trees of the world. His internationally acclaimed books *Remarkable Trees of the World* and *In Search of Remarkable Trees On Safari In Southern Africa* have made headlines around the world. His first book, *Meetings with Remarkable Trees*, sold over 200,000 copies and inspired a BBC series of the same name. At Tullyally Castle in Ireland he stewards hundreds of trees, some planted by his ancestors 350 years ago.

Pakenham's presentation was accompanied by a slide show of photographs from his books, and laced with the wit of an accomplished story-teller. He spoke about the issue of native versus non-native trees, or what he calls "guest trees", and the drive by some people to eliminate the non-native trees regardless of the benefits they bring. He encouraged his audience to think liberally when choosing and preserving trees, especially since global climates are changing.

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*Thomas Pakenham's photos generate awe as he entertains Canopy supporters.*



*Local leaders, Liz Kniss, Pat Foster and Medo Okelo welcome Thomas Pakenham to Palo Alto and East Palo Alto.*

# Solar Panel Law Protects Trees

Choosing the right place for the right tree requires consideration of more than the health of the tree. Recent news articles reported the dispute between neighbors over the placement of trees and the placement of solar panels. State Senator Joe Simitian sponsored SB 1399 which passed this month to resolve such disputes more fairly than under the previous law. SB 1399 clarifies vague or confusing provisions of the previous law. Specifically it:

- protects trees planted before the installation of solar collectors and allows homeowners to replace them when they die.
- redefines “solar collector” and allows some ground installation
- defines allowable amounts of shade from trees on panels
- excludes solar devices intended to offset more than the building’s electricity demand
- provides a mechanism for written notice between neighbors
- makes it easier for local communities to adopt and enforce their own ordinances on the subject
- eliminates criminal prosecution for violations and places them in civil court.

The new law was initially opposed by the solar industry, but through Simitian’s efforts a balance was reached. Sue Kateley, Executive Director, California Solar Energy Industries Association agrees “the end result allows us to grow the solar industry in California and let trees grow too.”

To read the entire bill, go to Canopy’s website, [www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org), and click on the link.

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Honored guests at the dinner included State Senator Joe Simitian, who was the emcee, General Consul of Ireland Emer Dean, State Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, and Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss. Palo Alto’s City Council members Sid Espinosa and Yiaway Yeh, Planning Arborist Dave Dockter and Managing Arborist Eric Krebs were also there.

East Palo Alto Mayor Pat Foster presented Canopy Executive Director, Catherine Martineau, with a plaque of commendation and gratitude for the thousands of hours and financial resources Canopy and its volunteers have brought to the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative.

Music for the evening was by Celtic Greenbridge trio. The enthusiastic audience was invited to join in singing an original piece written by one of the band in honor of Canopy’s work.

Proceeds from this event benefit Canopy’s urban forestry programs in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto.

## Urban Forests Can Live With Solar Energy



*Dave Dockter*

Many homeowners are considering installing solar panels in an effort to reduce their carbon footprint. Dave Dockter, Certified Arborist and landscape specialist with the City of Palo Alto knows about the conflicts that arise between the placement of existing trees and solar panels. In his experience, contractors who install solar collectors “prioritize the capacity, mounting of fixtures and weight bearing ability of the structure supporting the units,” but many “do not prioritize optimum location of the units based on current or future shade limitations.” Homeowners are advised to consider carefully their own landscape plans as well as their neighbors’ existing landscape when deciding where collectors will be placed, and then instruct installers accordingly.

Dockter also believes cities should base the size of subsidy rebates for installation of solar collectors on the effectiveness of the collecting unit. Solar collectors that are less effective because they are put in less than optimum locations for full sun would receive lower subsidies, providing an incentive for careful placement.

Dockter and others are working to increase coordination among city departments encouraging solar installations and the preservation of our urban forest. Dockter believes the new law, SB 1399, “has filled an important environmental step toward a global comprehensive environmental strategy that respects optimum benefits of solar power and urban forest benefits.”

# Palo Alto 2008

## Young Tree Care Survey

By Sharon Kelly, Program Director

We kicked off our annual Palo Alto Young Tree Care Survey on the evening of July 16. Ten teams of volunteers dispersed from Mitchell Park into the neighborhoods of Palo Alto armed with clipboards, soil moisture probes and educational brochures. Volunteers returned to the park in the summer twilight with completed surveys, tired feet and good feelings of stewardship for our urban forest. More volunteers rose early on Saturday morning, July 19, to join our efforts. During these two kick-off sessions we were able to complete surveys for more than half the city's young street trees.

Since 2001, Canopy has trained and coordinated teams of volunteers of all ages to survey Palo Alto's street trees during the critical first five years following planting to ensure their long-term health. Volunteers assess each tree's health and growing conditions, provide first care for trees and deliver brochures with tree care information and deep-watering guidelines to residents. The data collected is provided to the city to help streamline tree maintenance.

Street trees are not only a large percentage of our urban forest, they play an important role as ambassadors for our community and continue Palo Alto's rich history of beautiful tree-lined streets. They also bring cooling shade, calming beauty and filter the air where it is needed most over the hardscape of our busy streets and sidewalks. Returning volunteers reported that conditions for young trees have improved as a result of our educational outreach efforts.

The smell of smoke in the air serves as a pungent reminder of these dry times. With ground water levels dropping, all trees young and old require more water than usual. This year's survey is part of our *Is Your Tree Thirsty?* campaign. We are encouraging residents to conserve water in other areas of their home and landscape and create a weekly deep watering schedule for their young trees. Once established, the tree roots and leaves will payback their water debt by creating cooler temperatures and preventing evaporation from the soil in the summer and reducing runoff and recharging groundwater in the winter.

We were very excited to collaborate with the City of Palo Alto and their Geographic Information System (GIS) experts to efficiently create our route maps and tree data tables this year. Our summer intern, Stephanie Velednitsky was also instrumental in the preparation for the survey and worked closely with the GIS team.

Volunteers continue our effort. They pick up routes and tools at the Canopy office and return the completed surveys. Please check out our new *Young Tree Care* brochure on our website and contact me if you are interested in volunteering for future surveys or have any questions. Thank you to all our Palo Alto Young Tree Care Survey volunteers!



Call Canopy, 650-964-6110, for a copy of the *Young Tree Care* brochure, or find tree care tips at [www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org).



Sharon Kelly, Canopy Program Director, (right) equips young surveyors from the Gunn High School Key Club to head out into Palo Alto neighborhoods.



# East Palo Alto Tree Initiative Volunteer Work Days

*By Sharon Kelly, Program Director*

In June, as days were growing warm and long, Canopy was joined by large groups of volunteers from Bay Area corporations that helped us complete maintenance goals for the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative project. Canopy worked with another non-profit called Hands On Bay Area ([www.handsonbayarea.org](http://www.handsonbayarea.org)) to bring the groups to East Palo Alto and provide volunteer opportunities for these progressive corporations to give back to the community and environment.

Sun, Roche, Google and Cisco volunteers pitched in—the mulching is done! On June 16, fifty volunteers from Google completed the huge effort to spread mulch around the trees of the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative. With 1,000-plus trees spread over two miles, this project required countless mulch donations delivered by local arborists and tree services and endless days working with our youth employment program last summer and Saturdays this spring.

A final call for mulch along East Bayshore Road set the stage for this group and volunteers jumped in with buckets, rakes and a borrowed wheelbarrow to finish the job! Volunteers also performed a tree rescue and tackled an area of the thickest chest-high weeds you've ever seen that were choking out our young trees.

Two weeks later on June 24, twenty volunteers from Cisco jumped in to clean up the last weedy section of sound wall on West Bayshore Road. I was surprised that volunteers were able to complete this section in one day. Thank you Sun, Roche, Google and Cisco volunteers for your hard work and community spirit!

*Google volunteers prepare to mulch the trees along the sound walls along Highway 101 in East Palo Alto.*



## Summer Youth

Canopy ranks high among the choices youth have for summer volunteer work. Teens from middle school through high school are making significant contributions to Canopy's work from June through August.

A dedicated core of four high school youth from the Youth Employment Program (YEP) and sixteen 8th and 9th graders from Youth Community Service have contributed time on Wednesdays and Saturdays to tree care in East Palo Alto. Joined each time by one or two drop-ins, they have weeded, mulched, watered, adjusted drip lines and trained young trees to grow straight. They are often joined by teens who contact Sharon Kelly, Canopy Program Director, via email after hearing about Canopy through word of mouth or discovering the web site.

The youth have also helped make this year's Palo Alto Young Tree Care Survey a success. Led by an adult, trained high school mentors or Canopy's summer intern, Stephanie Velednitsky, these small teams have completed seven routes covering twenty or more trees each. The YEP teens also worked as parking attendants and collected pledges at An Evening With Remarkable Trees in June.

Sharon Kelly and Canopy board member, Urban Cummings, have recruited nearly thirty youth from a local middle school and the community at large. On two separate Saturdays, teens earned community service hours credit by participating on tree survey teams that completed a total of eighteen routes on the Young Tree Care Survey.

Canopy extends sincere gratitude to these community minded young people who donate their time to guarantee the future of a healthy urban forest.





*Youth Community Service Volunteers join Canopy's Palo Alto Young Tree Care Survey in July.*

## *Volunteer Perspective:* My Experience as a Young Tree Care Surveyor

*By Wook Lee, Gunn High School Student*

Taking only a fraction of a single Saturday, the Young Tree Care Survey from Canopy provided me with a feeling of being able to give something back to my community.

As part of surveying young trees, we probed the dirt around the tree to check if it was watered sufficiently with a long metal stick (moisture probe) that allowed dirt to get stuck into a reservoir for inspection. We also looked for weeds and suckers growing at the base of the tree, pulled or cut them if there were any and checked if the tree was in good health in general. We then left owners of the young trees a nice little brochure explaining if any-thing needed tending.

When surveying these young trees, it was particularly nice to see residents interested in what we were doing in our bright orange vests looking at their tree. All residents that we talked to and explained what we were doing were amiable and sweet. They inquired about what we were doing and we had a pleasant conversation in a brilliant Saturday afternoon.

What makes the Young Tree Care Program so important? Trees that are under five years old classify as young trees and it is crucial that these young trees are kept healthy within their first five years, as it affects how the tree will grow up. A tree is like a child. It is equally important to imbed fundamental morals and ideas into children so that they may stick with a child until they become adults. If this stage in a child's life is neglected, this may ruin what it becomes, or what it does not become in the future. Trees also require this critical care in the early stages of their growth.

Surveying about twenty trees, the experience was over all too fast. When we arrived back to Mitchell Park, somebody at Canopy had graciously prepared us large, delicious sandwiches, crackers and grapes. But even greater than the conversation and the wonderful food available, was the feeling I acquired with helping my community and the people.



*Wook Lee takes notes on young tree care from Sharon Kelly, Canopy's Program Director.*

All trees, including natives, benefit from infrequent, but deep summer watering especially during drought periods.

# Drought Survivors

Dry refers to approximate drought tolerance:

- M moderate
- H high
- VH very high

## Put the Right Tree in the Right Place

As we continue through our dry summer season, our trees are showing signs of stress caused by the drought conditions in this part of California. If you are landscaping, adding or replacing trees, consider those trees that are particularly suited to our climate and water conditions as well as the particular conditions of your property. Global climate change adds uncertainty to our choices.

Below is a chart of a few trees Canopy is planting. They are selected because they do well in low water conditions and are most likely to survive drought once established.

Some of the trees that appear to be suffering most are among the most popular, though not necessarily the most appropriate trees for our area: Japanese Maples, Citrus varieties, Gingko, Sweetgum/Liquid-amber, Southern Magnolia and Monterey Pine.

Dave Muffly, Certified Arborist and Canopy board member, has compiled a much longer list of Drought Survivors and Drought Sufferers for reference on the Canopy website, [www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org). While you are there, check out the two tree care brochures: *Young Tree Care* and *Watering Your Mature Tree*. By planting the right tree in the right place and giving it the help it needs in dry times, your trees should live a long, healthy life.

Common Name	Latin Name	Dry	Notes
Strawberry Tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	H	Tough, proven, attractive in fruit
Deodar Cedar/Atlas Cedar	<i>Cedrus deodara/atlantica</i>	H	Big, tough, proven
White Sapote	<i>Casimiroa edulis</i>	H	Tough, productive subtropical fruit tree
Japanese Persimmon	<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	M/H	'Fuyu' often chlorotic, otherwise tough and productive
'Natchez' Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia x 'Natchez' multistem</i>	M/H	Great bark, flowers, fall color, largest hybrid Crape Myrtle
Primrose Tree	<i>Lagunaria pattersonii</i>	VH	Moderate size screening/parking lot/buffer, prickly pods
Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris varieties</i>	H	Apples are tough, but do better with some summer water
African/European Olive	<i>Olea africana/europae</i>	H	'Swan Hill' best fruitless, African fast upright growth
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	M/H	Classic old European pine, moderate growth, nice bark
Chinese Pistache	<i>Pistachia chinensis</i>	H	Classic tree, structural prune for central leader for long life
Mock Orange	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	M/H	Wonderful smelling, moderate size Pittosporum
African Fern Pine	<i>Podocarpus gracilior</i>	M/H	Consistent growth in good soils, a survivor
Catalina Cherry	<i>Prunus lyonii</i>	H	Dense, consistent evergreen native with fruit, good screen/buffer
Pluot, Aprium	<i>Prunus</i>	M/H	Prune lightly and consistently for long life
Coast Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	VH	Most common local native tree
Valley Oak	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	H	Gene-diverse local Valley oak, low mildew, select upright trees
Cork Oak	<i>Quercus suber</i>	VH	Beautiful bark, needs good drainage, rootstock quality critical
Silver Linden	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	H	Beautiful, dense leaves, fall color, great shade tree, tough
Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia 'Drake'</i>	H	High maintenance, 'Drake' is ultra-tough, nearly evergreen



# Canopy's Summer Intern

Canopy is fortunate to have Stephanie Velednitsky working as a paid intern this summer. She helped organize the Young Tree Care Survey and has led several teams through neighborhoods assessing the health of city trees.

Stephanie will be a sophomore this fall at UC San Diego where she plans a double major in biology and environmental systems. She was born at Stanford Hospital to parents from St Petersburg, Russia and grew up in Menlo Park. From age four to eighteen she performed with Theatre Games, a Russian theatre troop doing plays in Russian, her first language. She loves backpacking and is planning a career doing work that benefits the environment. Thanks for all your work, Stephanie!



*Stephanie Velednitsky, Canopy's energetic intern brings invaluable skills and enthusiasm as well as a youthful perspective, so helpful when leading our young summer volunteers.*

## 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!

# SUMMER 2008

## TREE WALKS EVERY MONTH

### coming events

#### **TREE WALKS! 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am to Noon**

##### **September 13**

*Crescent Park*

Meet at corner of University and Lincoln Avenues.

##### **October 11**

*Palo Verde*

Meet at Palo Verde Elementary School  
3450 Louis Road

##### **November 8**

*Old Palo Alto*

Meet at Gamble Garden Center, Churchill Street parking lot

##### **October 25**

**9:00 am – Noon**

*Neighborhoods Tree Planting and Planting Leader Training*  
Location TBA

## Canopy Leadership

### Board of Directors

Susan Rosenberg, *Chair*  
Marty Deggeller, *Vice-Chair*  
Lanie Wheeler, *Treasurer*  
Roy C. Leggitt, III, *Secretary*  
James Cook, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Faye Brown  
Urban K. Cummings  
Dave Muffly  
Brooks Nelson  
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### Advisory Committee

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Anne Draeger  
Herb Fong  
Patricia Foster  
Carroll Harrington  
Joe Hirsch  
Leannah Hunt  
Carol Jansen  
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John McClenahan  
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Betty Meltzer  
Nancy Peterson  
Carolyn Reller  
Jane Stocklin  
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### Staff

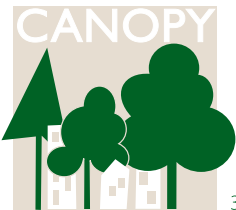
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