After months of anticipation, the January 30th California Avenue replanting day arrived. Forecasters promised dry weather, a relief after recent heavy rains. The forecasters proved spot-on, and the California Avenue Re-Planting Day proceeded under ideal mid-winter conditions.

City and Canopy staff as well as volunteers started the day early, preparing for nearly 150 helpers to plant 44 trees. Among the City staff that arrived bright and early were, Erik Krebs, Palo Alto City Managing Arborist, Elizabeth Ames, Public Works Senior Engineer and Denis Huegle, Public Works Engineering Inspector. All week, under the leadership of Program Director Sharon Kelly, a team of Canopy volunteers had been organizing and preparing to make this unusual event a smooth success. All of the 25 planting leaders had their planting holes and volunteer teams assigned, allowing a smooth transition from demonstration to mass planting. Planting spots were numbered, and planting leaders were given maps of their spots.

The contractors got an early start, bringing the large trees from the Golf Course Maintenance yard—where Joe Vallaire and his able staff had generously allowed us to once again store vital public trees—and placing them next to their appointed position on the street. Simultaneously, other workmen began opening holes in the surprisingly chunky structural soil, using a small backhoe. There was to be little human digging, with no protest from any of the volunteers.

continued on page 2

“After the clearcutting, I looked around for an organization that protects trees in Palo Alto. Canopy wasn’t hard to find, and I joined it immediately. Saturday’s (planting) event convinced me that I made the right decision. Canopy shares . . . the credit for leading the movement to redirect the City’s replanting plan to what was finally achieved. I think everyone who wishes to prevent another fiasco like last September’s tree cutting needs to get involved with their neighborhood association. I believe that if more people had been involved it wouldn’t have happened. In addition, please support Canopy.”

Alan Weller, Midtown, Palo Alto
This was truly an awesome experience! I was so heartbroken, as were so many other people, to see our lovely trees go. Now, my heart is absolutely filled with joy, gratitude and thankfulness that I... indeed.

Leslie Gates, Evergreen Park, Palo Alto

In The Mix:
- 1 marching band
- 1 bottle of Chalone sacred blessing water
- 25 Planting Leaders
- 42 shovels
- 44 trees
- 150 volunteers
- 225 bagels
- 300 gloves
- 1,000 smiles
- 2,000 cubic feet of structural soil
- 2,250 gallons of water (for thirsty trees and volunteers)

Now Gracing California Avenue...

‘Cathedral’ Southern Live Oak
Quercus virginiana ‘Cathedral’

Dave Muffy

In the redesign of the California Avenue treescape, by far the most vexing aspect was the choice of evergreen trees. Surprisingly, the California nursery industry offers a limited choice of larger, sidewalk-friendly broadleaf evergreen tree species. The “classic” choices, Pepper Tree, Magnolia, even the semi-evergreen Chinese Elm, have proven troublesome, especially in street settings. There are smaller broadleaf evergreens, but few in the medium to large size range apt for urban planting. Thus we chose ‘Cathedral’ Southern Live Oak.

Those who know trees tend to think of the Southern Live Oak from the grand plantations of the South, where these trees grow wide, often creating stunning alises. But Southern Live Oak is also a city tree, planted in the South (and even the arid West) where they have proven tolerant, vigorous and strong.

Another reason Southern Live Oak has caught on in cities is its reluctance to disturb paving. Deep roots, common throughout the Oak (Quercus) genus, mean that there’s typically little or no uplift, though room must be made for the trunk to expand. In the South, with abundant rainfall, trunks and canopies grow fast — in the arid West, Southern Live Oak is a moderate grower, reflected in both trunk girth and canopy width. With this moderate growth, Southern Live Oak has proven, over the last 50 years, to be an able urban tree in the West.

A great feature of Southern Live Oak, seedling or cultivar, is their adaptability to widely varying soil and moisture conditions. That deep rooting tendency described earlier plays a big part — if roots can go down, they can often find water in a dry climate (once the trees have been well-established, of course).

Don’t expect the same level of drought tolerance from Southern Live Oak as our California native Coast Live Oak, but do expect better drought performance than most streetscape-tolerant trees currently available in the marketplace. You will also have a tree, distinct from the notoriously summer-water-averse native Coast Live Oak, that will thrive in our sometimes-over-generously irrigated California landscapes.

The primary difficulty with Southern Live Oak in the West (and the South) is the growth habit — these trees, in seedling form, want to grow more horizontally than vertically, necessitating frequent pruning in the early years. In response to this, the nursery industry in the South has been selecting for, and introducing, upright branched Southern Live Oak for several decades. ‘High Rise’ has been used, though it tends to have a defective branching pattern. ‘Cathedral’ is the best cultivar offered so far, with an upright growth habit, and excellent branch attachments. Hopefully, in coming years, we will be offered a wider range of urban trees, especially evergreens, to grace the cities of California.
Thursday January 21st was a dark and stormy night, but there were no complaints from the group gathered at Scott’s Seafood for Canopy’s 14th Annual Party reception. Many came to hear State Senator Joe Simitian announce the State Resolution to designate a segment of El Camino Real (State Highway 82), the Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway. This posthumous honor was made for Betty’s years of environmental efforts that included the Trees for El Camino Project that raised over $250,000 for the City of Palo Alto to plant hundreds of new trees in the medians of El Camino Real in Palo Alto. Bob Meltzer, his daughters, Lauren Meltzer, and Didi Engel, son-in-laws, and grandchildren were present and received the framed State Resolution. Bob said of his wife, “I’m sure she would hope that the Dream of a Thousand Trees will grow into a wonderful canopy of green along the median of El Camino Real.”

The evening continued with the presentation of the Canopy Awards and a Certificate of Commendation for each from Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss.

The Arnold Soforenko Award honors the memory of Arnold Soforenko, a founding board member and is given annually to those who have made an extraordinary effort to preserve and enhance the urban forest. This year’s recipients were:

Jack Morton
For his consistent interest in and dedication to the trees and urban forest of Palo Alto during his two terms on the City Council; and for the insightful financial advice and expert services he has provided Canopy through his Certified Public Accounting firm, Morton & Associates.

Bob Golton
For his strong leadership in guiding the Palo Alto Unified School District, both staff and elected officials, to better understand the significant value school campus trees bring to the students, the staff, and the community. For supporting the development of a ground-breaking school tree policy; promoting sustainability and moving forward with master landscape plans to create greener healthier PAUSD campuses.

Ad Hoc California Avenue Tree Citizens’ Group
For their effort in focusing attention on the sudden removal of California Avenue trees, and for their dedication in the process of designing a creative tree replacement plan for this vital street. With leadership from Fred Balin, the Ad Hoc Citizens’ Group put in hundreds of hours, as well as personal resources, to ensure that a deed done in haste would be mitigated to the highest standard possible.

Out On A Limb Award is made to those who have consistently and dependably volunteered with Canopy. This year’s recipients were:

Bob and Kay Schauer
For completing the most tree care surveys, for being fantastic Planting Leaders, for teaching young volunteers that “Plants need us” and leading planting songs to make the digging go faster. For stuffing envelopes, attending Tree Walks and showing their love of trees and support for Canopy in many different ways. This dynamic duo may change hats from field to office volunteers but they never change their positive “can do” attitude and are rarely found without a smile.

Annette Glanckopf
For her outstanding efforts as a Neighborhood Tree Ambassador on Bryant Street. Annette went above and beyond with her outreach efforts to neighbors to get as many trees planted as possible and educate residents about the value of trees. She hosted the planting volunteers and created a slide show of the planting to present to City Council. Annette continues to look for planting opportunities, she is a real tree advocate for Midtown and a true asset to Canopy and the City of Palo Alto.

The 2010 Student Forester Award was given to:

Javier Magaña
For digging, planting, staking, tying, pruning, training, watering, weeding, mulching and surveying, for his dedicated service to the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative project, his leadership and support of Canopy plantings and volunteer work days and for many, many Saturdays during three years on our Canopy Youth Staff.
Volunteer Spotlight—Chris Melville & Anapoorna Akella

Anwyn Hurxthal

“I never thought I’d be interested in apples! They’re too well-tread,” laughs Chris Melville. “But I find that over the last half-dozen years I’ve been thinking a lot about apples!” A Palo Alto resident, Chris and his wife Anapoorna Akella have a deep interest in trees and their physiology, especially in fruit trees. They’ve joined in several dozen Canopy neighborhood tree walks over the last four years.

Chris’s interest in plant physiology led him to volunteer with Canopy as well as the Prusch Farm Fruit Orchard in San Jose. He also serves as a Board member to the California Fruit Growers Association.

“I have a general interest in propagation and grafting,” explains Chris. “I’d like to learn more about the physical compatibility of plants and trees.” Canopy’s Tree Stewart Workshops have provided both Chris and Anapoorna with insight into their interests, as have Arborist Kevin Rafftery’s pruning sessions and Dave Muffly’s tree plantings.

Anapoorna admits a close emotional tie with trees – trees have been a lifelong interest for her. Her background as an optic engineer, and Chris’s training as an organic chemist, provide them both with a scientific mindset that lends itself to their interest in trees. Their combined insight and experience with Tree Walks was tapped recently by Canopy Vice Chair Susan Ellis to ‘test-walk’ one of Canopy’s 15 revised neighborhood tree walks which will be launched this spring.

About their experience with Canopy, Chris says “It’s amazing there’s such an organization! It’s a neat resource!”

For a Fun Arbor Day Celebration
Saturday, March 13th, 10 AM - 12 Noon
Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo
Take a children’s Tree Walk
with Certified Arborist Carole Langston
Plant a tree, hear tree stories, sing tree songs and join in kids activities.
All ages are welcome—especially young children—as families celebrate trees for all the benefits, beauty and FUN they provide.

Yes! I want to protect my city trees.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

$35 $50 $75 $100 $250
$500 $1,000 $2,500 $5,000 Other

Yes! I want to gift someone a tree.

$50 (one tree planted)
$100 (one tree planted and given extra care)
In honor of OR In memory of

Tree Gift recipient name and mailing address:

(Recipient will receive a card with your personalized message. Due to City policies, trees are not individually identified at planting sites)

Total enclosed:

I want to double my gift, at no extra cost!

My employer’s name is

Please contact them about matching my gift.

Enclosed is my employer’s matching gift form. Please handle the rest.

Thank you for your gift!

Please mail your check payable to Canopy. Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law.

Tax ID: 01–0565752.

Canopy Acknowledges Generous Grants Received Recently From:

• Stanford Terrace Inn
• Home Depot Foundation
• Palo Alto ACE Hardware

Canopy, Spring 2010
Spring 2010
coming events

Structural Pruning with Arborist Dave Muffly
March 5, 9 AM to 3:30 PM
Workshop: Pruning and Training Young Trees for Strength, Beauty, Longevity and Appropriate Clearances: A Practical Approach for Arborists with Master Arborist Dave Muffly. Cost is $75 for WCISA members. To sign up and receive details please email: sharon@canopy.org
Meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 E. Bayshore Rd, Palo Alto for classroom portion.

Tree walk and Arbor Day Celebration
March 13, 10 AM to 12 PM
Tree songs, tree stories, leaf-rubbings, tree planting and other tree learning activities for kids.
Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, 1451 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Canopy Planting at the East Palo Alto Health and Safety Fair
March 27, 10 AM to 1 PM
Healthy and fun activities for kids: cooking classes, dance workshops, tree planting and more!
East Palo Alto YMCA, 550 Bell St., East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Tree walks! 2nd Saturday of every month, 10 AM to Noon
visit www.canopy.org for details

Canopy Leadership

Board of Directors
Susan Rosenberg, Chair
Susan Ellis, Vice-Chair
James F. Cook, Treasurer
Roy Leggitt, Secretary
Matthew Bahls
Faye Brown
Urban K. Cummings
Marty Deggeller
Dave Muffly
Carol Langston
Brooks Nelson

Staff
Catherine Martineau
Executive Director
Sharon Kelly
Program Director
Anwyn Hurxthal
Communications Manager

Advisory Committee
Tony Carrasco
Anne Draeger
Patricia Foster
Carroll Harrington
Joe Hirsch
Leannah Hunt
Carol Jansen
Jeanne Kennedy
John McClanahan
Mary McCullough
Scott McGilvray
Nancy Peterson
Forest Preston
Carolyn Reller
Jane Stocklin
Lauren Bonar Swezey
Lanie Wheeler

Canopy
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303
Tax ID: 01-0565752
650 964 6110
650 964 6173 (fax)
info@canopy.org
www.canopy.org