Tree Technical Manual Released!

by Susan Rosenberg

If I could stand at the top of City Hall and shout it out, I would. Palo Alto’s Tree Technical Manual has been published. Thank you Dave Dockter, planning arborist for Palo Alto who shepherded this project to completion.

This is the “soup to nuts” guide to tree care in Palo Alto. It is the standard for all trees, whether they are regulated by the tree preservation ordinance, the zoning ordinance or no ordinance at all.

It is so good, in fact, that since its publication in July the city has received more than 300 requests to use the manual as a template. And these requests are not just local ones—they’ve come from several other cities, the State of California, the City and County of Honolulu, British Columbia, the International Society of Arborists in England, three universities, and a major public utility. At Dave’s request the manual was not copyrighted, thus allowing more individuals to be reached without a financial burden. In addition, the manual is tailored for ease of use as a template for other cities who wish to benefit from its strategy.

Frank Benest, city manager of Palo Alto said, “Our trees add greatly to our quality of life in Palo Alto, and are one of our most valued community assets. Therefore, it is appropriate that the city of Palo Alto has taken a leadership role in this area. This benchmark document can serve as a template for other cities in their own efforts to preserve and manage a healthy urban forest.”

Never before in the history of Palo Alto have the regulations, standards, and specifications to implement the city’s tree ordinance been clearer or so easily accessible. You can get a free electronic copy at www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/trees. Printed copies are available at the city’s development center, 285 Hamilton St. across from City Hall.

The need for a tree technical manual was raised by the Tree Task Force. The Task Force had been convened by City
Canopy’s Impact Reaches Well Beyond Palo Alto

by Howell Lovell, Jr.

Canopy: Trees for Palo Alto is proud of its website and the impact that it has on our community. We are constantly looking for ways to improve it and the information that we provide on it. The website project was undertaken with the hope that the community would benefit from its existence. What we did not anticipate was the wide reach of people outside Palo Alto who have benefited from its presence.

Whitney Stone of New Orleans, Louisiana, wrote: “Hello, I've just been checking out your wonderful web site because I am exploring options of ways to bring more trees into my neighborhood. I am writing you from the architecturally and historically rich Faubourge Treme. (about two blocks from the French Quarter in New Orleans). I would be interested in any studies that have been done that show the many benefits of living in greener urban environments, I'm sure there have been many. Depending on the level of detail you are interested in, I would point you to an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) publication entitled “Benefits of Trees”. It is part of their Consumer Guide and can be downloaded from their web site at http://www.isa-arbor.com/.”

We have had several requests for material on “Keeping Native Oaks Healthy” including requests from someone in Silsbee, Texas and another in Damon, Texas.

Perhaps the most unique request came from a person in a small rural town in the northern part of Victoria, Australia. Their concern was that their city government wanted to remove the fifty year old London plane trees from their streets because they were concerned that the trees would eventually “lift” the streets. They wished to replace them with trees that did not damage the streets. The inquiry asked if we had any information about London plane trees. We were able to refer them to our spring 2000 and autumn 2000 newsletters (which are posted on our website) and in particular to the two part series by Dave Muffly on the advantages and disadvantages of London plane trees as street trees. This was “exactly what we wanted!” was the response we received. We do not know of the final result; but, because of our website, we were able to make a difference.

Made in the Shade

A new research study at the Western Center for Urban Forest Research and Education looked at the effects shade has on energy use. It found that if citizens planted just 50 million more shade trees in strategic energy-saving locations, the energy saved would be equivalent to seven new 100 MW power plants.

Are Trees Really the Answer?

“It will take about 5–15 years for trees to fully contribute to energy conservation but the money saved will make a difference.”

Continues on page 5, Shade
Canopy’s Tree Care Program Takes Root

by Karen Donnelly

Thanks to many volunteers who braved the summer sun, Canopy’s Tree Care Program is off to a great start. Volunteers surveyed the health and maintenance needs of over 300 young trees in this year’s target neighborhood of College Terrace. Teams of volunteers have been going tree-to-tree, street-by-street, looking after the trees by watering, weeding, rebuilding basins, and fixing or removing stakes. So far, we have cared for over 100 trees. Come join us for the remaining Tree Care sessions scheduled this fall.

The survey data and reports from the field are still being processed; however, a few preliminary conclusions can be drawn. The majority of the young street trees surveyed need water. Many trees receive some water from irrigation of surrounding landscaping but this is not enough to penetrate deep into the soil to the tree roots. Most trees also needed some additional care in the form of weeding and/or mulching.

Canopy will examine the data and the results of this year’s pilot program in determining how to expand tree care to all of Palo Alto.

Our many thanks go to the volunteers who have worked hard to look after the trees and to the residents of College Terrace for providing us with much-needed water.

Thank you also to the California ReLeaf 2001 Capacity-Building Grant Program and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for funding the first year of Canopy’s Tree Care Program.

Canopy’s Steering Committee Grows — Elects New Officers

by Forest Preston

The Canopy Steering Committee was expanded to 15 members, the maximum allowed by our by-laws, when Inge Angiletta and John McClenahan were elected to membership at the June 2001 meeting. Inge is with Alain Pinel Realtors and has been involved in a number of community service projects. John is part of the S.P. McClenahan arborculturist company, well known local arborists.

Marty Deggeller was elected to the committee chair position and Gail Schubert was elected secretary. Joe Hirsch will continue as vice-chair; Brad Denson will continue as treasurer.

Marty has gotten right to work in his new job—the first thing on his new leadership agenda was the appointment of a strategic planning committee to put together a new five-year plan for the organization. He hasn’t slackened off in his volunteer tree work either; he has been a regular participant in the new tree care program. Marty speaks enthusiastically about both of these projects, saying “Educating Palo Altans in the basics of tree care is one of the best ways Canopy can fulfill its mission as advocates for the trees of Palo Alto. And we need to develop a long range plan that recognizes that and other opportunities to improve the urban forest and that guides our future efforts.”

Congratulations to our new officers – and welcome to our new Steering Committee members!
Take this PA OakQuiz by Bill Courington

1. Which is the rarest of native oaks in Palo Alto?
   a. Coast Live  c. Blue
   b. Black  d. Valley

2. Which businesses have a blue oak near their entrance?
   a. Nordstrom
   b. Su Hong (El Camino Way)
   c. Indian Village (Town & Country)

3. Which neighborhood has more Valley oaks?
   a. Crescent Park
   b. Hoover Park (Oregon/Middlefield/
      Loma Verde/Waverley)

4. Which High School has more oaks?
   a. Gunn  b. Paly

5. Where are most of Palo Alto’s blue oaks?
   a. Page Mill Pastures (along Deer Creek)
   b. Old Palo Alto
   c. San Francisquito Creek

6. Palo Alto’s largest oak has a diameter of 80 inches; what is its species?
   a. Blue  c. Coast live
   b. Black  d. Valley

7. Palo Alto has 701 blocks; how many of these have at least one oak?
   a. 120  b. 359
   c. 521  d. 665

8. Over half of Palo Alto’s oaks are on which kind of property?
   a. Commercial
   b. Single family residence
   c. Government, including parks and medians

9. Out of 47 neighborhoods, just one has no native oaks. Which is it?
   a. Downtown
   b. Garland
   c. Rosewalk

Answers found elsewhere in this newsletter. For more details see the OakWell report on the Canopy website.

City Answers Tree Questions at Next Canopy Tree Talk—FREE

by Karen Donnelly

How do I care for my native oak? What tree permits do I need for a remodeling project? Can I prune my street tree? How do I protect trees during construction? Get the answers to these and many more questions at Canopy’s upcoming “Tree Talk” with city arborists David Doctor, and David Sandage, and consulting arborist Ray Morneau.

The City of Palo Alto published the Tree Technical Manual earlier this summer to establish technical guidelines and standards necessary for implementing the city’s Tree Preservation and Management Regulations. The Tree Technical Manual contains a number of requirements and recommended practices for homeowners and developers caring for, and building around, protected trees. “Tree Talk” will give an overview of the Palo Alto’s regulations, explain the city’s Tree Management Program, discuss what permits are required for different types of work, and provide valuable information on how to care for protected trees.

Tree Talk—
“PALO ALTO TREE TECHNICAL MANUAL:
A WORKSHOP FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC”

by David Dockter, Planning Arborist,
City of Palo Alto, David Sandage,
Arborist, City of Palo Alto and Ray Morneau, consulting arborist.
Oct. 20, 2001, 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Cubberly Community Center,
Theater, 4000 Middlefield Rd.
Admission is free.
Volunteer Opportunities at Canopy

by Karen Donnelly

Canopy’s fall planting season is fast approaching. Join us in planting trees in Palo Alto’s parks, neighborhoods and business areas. We have an exciting season lined up and volunteer opportunities to suit every type of interest and level of commitment including:

**Graphic Design** Expand your portfolio by designing invitations, flyers and brochures for Canopy. This fall, Canopy needs help designing invitations and flyers consistent with our established style, for an estimated total commitment of 32 hours. Volunteers should have some previous graphic design experience, be able to work from home/office, and possess the necessary software.

**Office Volunteer** Support Canopy staff by doing data entry and helping organize events. Canopy is looking for a time commitment of 2 to 3 hours a week. Previous experience with Mac systems and File Maker would be helpful.

**Neighborhood Coordinator** Help Canopy coordinate tree-planting efforts in your area. As a Neighborhood Coordinator, you will organize a few neighbors to serve as Tree Ambassadors and canvass the area for potential tree-planting sites. The total time commitment of 10 hours will help make your neighborhood a more shady and beautiful place for years to come.

**Tree Ambassador** Talk to your neighbors about planting new street trees. Assist Canopy in identifying tree-planting sites and informing residents of the benefits provided by trees. A total time commitment of 10 hours is all that’s required to make a difference in your neighborhood.

**Planting Leader** Teach others to plant trees and lead small teams of planters during the fall/winter planting season. Training will be provided at a hands-on Planting Leader workshop. After completing the training, Planting Leaders will be asked to assist Canopy with 3 tree plantings this season.

**Tree Planters** Plant new street trees in your neighborhood or other parts of Palo Alto. No experience needed. Canopy provides training and tools at each site. Plantings are held several Saturday mornings throughout the fall and winter and proceed rain or shine. Sign up for the plantings that best suit your schedule! ■
On a warm spring day in May a dozen or so people gathered at Stanford’s Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Canopy was hosting a tour of Jasper Ridge for its major donors. Due to the nature of Jasper Ridge itself and the experiments underway there, access is very limited. So it was really a treat to be able to attend.

Our tour guide was docent Jessie Schilling. She was ably assisted by docent Bob Buell who arrived just as we were about to embark on our tour and was welcomed as part of the excursion.

We began at the parking lot—situated in the chaparral-like landscape near the ridgetop. As we descended the hill toward the San Francisquito creekbed Jessie and Bob began sharing their encyclopedic knowledge of the local flora and fauna as well as the history of Jasper Ridge itself. We entered the woodland where we were treated first to the sight of California Buckeyes coming into bloom. After crossing over the railroad bridge (so named, not because it ever carried a train, but because it is made from the bed of an old railroad flatcar) we turned upstream to look at the Searsville Lake dam from below. The fascinating structure of interlocking concrete blocks has proven itself in more than one significant earthquake. We were to later cross over the top of it and get a different view.

After exploring further into the woods—to the redwood grove—we climbed out of the forest and saw displays of wildflowers and typical hillside meadowland and scrub brush. After climbing to the top of the hill we descended to the lake level where riparian plant-life flourishes—perhaps

Continues next page, Jasper Ridge
Do you have a favorite tree—one that has special meaning to you, one that you find remarkable for some reason? Perhaps it is particularly beautiful, or maybe it has personal significance because of some event it helped witness. Whatever the reason, if you know of such a tree and would like to tell others about it, we'd like to help. Send us a few sentences about why you think it is exceptional. Tell us where it is and, if you know, what kind of tree it is. Include a photo if you have one (with addressed return envelope if you want it back). We'll select from readers submissions and publish them in this column in future newsletters.

Our first such tree is one identified by Marguerite Fletcher, a noted local artist. The tree, a bay laurel, is on Palo Alto Avenue near where it ends at Marlowe. Marguerite says:

“This old Bay tree has the presence of an ancient grandparent. It leans out over the San Francisquito Creek overshadowing such a generous territory that one truly enters a separate world under the sweet-smelling canopy. A Palo Alto native introduced me to this tree. I can imagine spending a childhood reclining in its broad arms.”

Landscaping under Trees

The short answer is don’t do it.

Dave Sandage, city arborist, tells us that the city frequently gets questions about mature trees that have (seemingly) suddenly died. Said Dave, “When we ask them if they have done any landscaping under the tree, they reply ‘well yes, but that was five years ago.’” Five years is just about how long it takes for a significant landscaping job to have a killing effect. Trees need room around their root crowns. And extensive landscaping can severely injure major roots.

For ideas on safe ways to plant under trees, watch for an upcoming article in the Palo Alto Weekly Home and Garden section.
Awards Given at our Annual Party

At Canopy’s annual party, held at the home of Betty and Bob Meltzer on October 3, several awards were made to people who have made significant contributions to the preservation and enhancement of significant parts of the Palo Alto urban forest.

The Arnold Soforenko Award

The Arnold Soforenko Award honors those who, like Arnold, have made extraordinary contributions to Palo Alto’s community forest. With thanks for their example, Canopy gave this year’s award to the following recipients:

Kevin Raftery, a local arborist, who is a former Canopy Steering Committee Member. Kevin has consulted and advised Canopy, led most of our Tree Planting Leader Training courses, was instrumental in our new Tree Care Training. He has helped the community, and particularly Escondido School, in protecting their oak trees during their new construction efforts.

Stanford Management Company, Ramsey Shuyto, Asset Manager for their efforts in protecting and moving a large Coast Live Oak tree that was in the middle of a new building site at 3301 Hillview Avenue. At great effort and expense, and beyond the “call of duty,” the tree was moved to another location on the site, and has survived and is thriving.

Out On a Limb Awards

One of the quotes we often use, “It takes five years to plant a tree, a morning to put it in the ground and five years of care” could as well be applied to the growth of Canopy. It’s the enduring and consistent “care” our volunteers give to Canopy, in the office and out in the field, that supports our work.

These people have gone “Out On A Limb” for Canopy; they can be counted on for keeping the computers filled with current data, writing grants, producing the newsletters, and leading the plantings. Thank you to the recipients of this years Out On A Limb Award:

Susan Rosenberg for attending and leading the most Tree Care Maintenance Sessions with enthusiasm and ready smile.

Adam Lishinsky in his efforts for Tree Care Survey by putting in the most hours and surveying the most routes.

Mark Pratt for leading the volunteers in the most Tree Planting sessions last year.

Become a Plant Leader this Fall

Become a planting leader this fall.

Ever suspect that there’s more to planting a tree than just putting it in the ground? By becoming a Planting Leader, you can have all your questions answered and receive special hands-on training from certified arborists. In return for this wonderful training, Canopy asks that you put your knowledge to work at a few tree-planting events.

This year, local certified arborists Kevin Raftery will lead the Planting Leader Training on Thursday, November 1 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Please call the Canopy office at 964-6110 or e-mail at info@canopy.org to sign up.

Answers to OakQuiz

1. b, 2. c, 3. 2, 4. a, 5. b, 6. a, 7. c, 8. b, 9. p.
Council in 1994 to review a number of issues concerning Palo Alto’s trees. Among other things they found that city planners did not have standards for protection of trees during construction—whether by a private developer or by city crews and contractors.

Rooted in the Tree Task Force recommendations to City Council in 1996, the *Tree Technical Manual* establishes standards for implementing the city’s Tree Ordinance. The Task Force recognized the gap between the intention of the Ordinance to protect trees and the city’s ability to implement its regulations.

In writing this manual, Dave Dockter intends to reach anyone with the potential to disturb any part of a regulated tree; this includes residents, architects, builders, construction crews, arborists, and the city’s various departments; utilities, transportation, planning, public works, and community services. With over 40,000 trees along city streets and in our parks, the bulk of regulated trees falls under the care of the city.

It serves that purpose well. “As a lifelong amateur tree hugger who has read everything I can find about tree care, I think the *Tree Technical Manual* is a treasure. For practical how-tos and what-not-to-dos, it’s heads and shoulders above Sunset and Ortho said Dave Bubenik. Dave, an SRI scientist and Canopy Steering Committee member, continues, “Every tree grower in Palo Alto ought to have one. With the local legal language removed, our town might just have a broad appeal best seller!”

Regulated trees can either be on public or private property and must be maintained according to the Standards and Specifications defined in the manual. They fall within the following three categories:

**Protected Trees**

Coast Live Oak, *Quercus agrifolia*, and Valley Oak *Quercus lobata* when 11.5 inches or greater in diameter measured at 54 inches above natural grade

Coast Redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, when 18 inches or greater in diameter measured at 54 inches above natural grade

Heritage trees: individual trees of any size or species, designated by the City Council. These trees are designated by City Council after nomination by property owners.

**Street Trees**

All trees growing within the planting strip (between the sidewalk and street) or, when there is no planting strip, within the City’s right-of-way. Three photographs in the manual (pages 2–8 through 2–10) make it very clear where the City’s right-of-way is in such cases.

**Designated Trees**

All trees associated with a development project that have been specifically designated by the city to be saved and protected. This includes trees on either public or private property which could be affected by a variance, home improvement, exception, architectural review, subdivision, etc.

The manual uniquely separates activity around regulated trees as either *required* practices. Required practices must be implemented by the property owner, project applicant, or contractor. Recommended practices are not mandatory but are good, sound measures for any tree.

What happens if you’ve read the manual, you understand the ins and outs of protecting trees in Palo Alto and you come upon a clear case of a developer breaking the rules? Call the code enforcement team in the planning department. They have the authority to issue a correction notice or stop work order. If they’re not available, then call the Police.

Well done Dave. Thanks from Canopy and from the Trees of Palo Alto!
**Tree Gifts (July 1, 2000–June 30, 2001)**

Dalton Realty, in memory of Pierre Salgado, M.D.
Mid-Peninsula Access Corporation, to Isabela Huin in acknowledgment of outstanding Board service
Mid-Peninsula Access Corporation, to Joanie King in acknowledgment of outstanding Board service
Lisa Breakey, in honor of John Darby and Jack Bird
Carolyn Caddes & Robin Robinson, in memory of Bill Watterud
Carolyn Caddes & Robin Robinson, in honor of the new baby Rebecca Lyn Weeks
Theresa Chen, in honor of the faculty of the Dept. of Natural Sciences, College of Notre Dame
Lynn Chiapella, in memory of Architectural Review Board member Frank Alphonse
Robin Clark & Mary Mackiernan, in honor of John & Pegge Hlavacek
Debra Compton, in honor of Susan Rosenberg's birthday
Keelin Costello & Patrick Redmond, in honor of Freja Schiellerup Ostergaard and Eva Schiellerup Ostergaard
Anne & F. John Draeger, in honor of Jeanne M. Spaulding
Terri Ducay, in honor of Brian Ducay
Terri Ducay, in honor of Rose Ducay
Kathryn Dunlevie & Robert Hayes, in honor of Dwight and Barb Dunlevie
Carole & Stephen Eittreim, in honor of Stephanie Chancellor
Carole & Stephen Eittreim, in memory of John Skelton
Keith & Samantha Elliott, in honor of Jim and Trish Mulvey
Rita French, in memory of Faye Cooper
Rita French, in memory of Josephine Landor
Rita French, in memory of Caroline Drewes
Rita French, in memory of Chris Nielsen
Sally & Whit Heaton, in memory of Aleida Schuman
Joe & Bette Hirsch, in honor of the birthdays of Maureen and Paul Roskoph
Joe & Bette Hirsch, in memory of Dorothea K. Almond
Joe & Bette Hirsch, in memory of Lorraine Apfelberg
Joe & Bette Hirsch, in honor of the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shvat and the friendship of Bill and Lillie Donovan
Joe & Bette Hirsch, in memory of Nicholas Bondaksis
Joan Jacobus, in memory of Warren R. Jacobus
Laurie & James Jarrett, in memory of neighbor, Jack Sykes
Jeanne Kennedy, in honor of Susan Wilson
Carl King, in honor of Tim and Nancy Vendilinski
Ruth & Dick Lacey, in memory of Charles Probst
Robert & Isabella Leon, in honor of Susan Wilson
Leland Levy, in honor of Eugene O'Sullivan's 63rd birthday
Robert Lowen, in honor of Marilynn A. Gallaway
Tom Parrish & Deborah Montgomery, in honor of Maxine Greenfield Church
J.R. & Robbie Prohaska, towards the Gunn High School Oaks Preservation Project in honor of J. Raymond Prohaska
Glenn Rennels & Margaret Forsyth, in honor of Sue Rennels and Mike Grisez
Agnes Robinson, in honor of Horace Anderson
Susan Rosenberg, to honor the 25th anniversary of Mark & Sheila Wolfson
Susan Rosenberg, in memory of Woody Nichols
Susan Rosenberg, in memory of Patricia Carrasco
Susan Sherman, in honor of Jenny & David Chambers
Susan Sherman, in honor of Stacey Quo
Susan Sherman, in honor of Karen & George Eberle
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Clint Smith & Elizabeth Arndorfer, from Clint and Boo in Washington, DC for clint's mother, Marilyn Sode Smith
Ruth Soforenko, in memory of Frank Alfonso, in honor of Brian McCune's special birthday, and in honor of Jan & Tony Di Julio's anniversary
Robert Soforenko & Ulla Soforenko, in memory of Arnold Soforenko
Nancy Soforenko & David Gerken, in Arnold's memory
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Lanie & David Wheeler, in memory of Joe Carleton
Jeffrey & Julia Young, in honor of Joe Hirsch
David & Caroline Zlotnick, in honor of Joe Hirsch
Canopy Thanks New and Renewed Members  (July 1, 2000–June 30, 2001)

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Canopy also thanks our many Acorn donors (gifts under $50)
Canopy’s Calendar of Events

November
1  Planting Leader Training  5:00–7:00 pm
3  Planting, 9:00 to noon

December
Mayor’s Planting to be determined

January
12  Planting, 9:00 to noon
26  Planting, 9:00 to noon

February
9   Planting, 9:00 to noon
23  Planting, 9:00 to noon

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