CONTENTS
IN THIS ISSUE
Thoughts from the Chair ........... 1-2
Canopy in the Digital Age .......... 2
Tree Steward Workshop Series ....... 3
Volunteer Spotlight .............. 3
Donor List ...................... 4-6
Young Tree Care Survey .......... 6
Tree Gifts ...................... 7
Ask the Arborist ............... 7
Coming Events .................. 8
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THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR
by Ann Blodneau
In July Susan Rosenberg was named Chair of Canopy’s Board of Directors. Susan recently sat down to answer some questions of interest to Canopy members.
Q. How did you get interested in the urban forest? In Canopy in particular?
A. I was a kid who loved trees. The small town I grew up in the Salinas Valley had a population of 450 people but there were thousands of trees, mainly oaks. I somehow got the idea in my head as a kid that those gnarly old oaks were wise old people. So, here I am in Palo Alto, a community with incredible old trees, working to keep them alive and healthy as long as possible.

When the City Council convened the Tree Task Force to study the decline of Palo Alto’s urban forest in the early 1990s I was headed to Massachusetts for a master’s program in landscape design. When I returned home I knew I wanted to be involved in learning about Palo Alto’s urban forest, something quite unique in the Bay Area not only for its oaks but for its collection of trees from around the world.

Q. What Canopy activities have you been involved with?

Canopy’s new Board Chair Susan Rosenberg examines a Chinese elm as part of the Tree Care Survey in 2004.

Q. What Canopy accomplishments are you most proud of?
A. Canopy is firmly rooted in Palo Alto, pun intended, but attempts at humor aside, it is very heartwarming to see how Canopy has become a well respected member of this community. We’re recognized by residents as the place to call for tree questions, and we have a very good working relationship with the City’s tree department and Public Works. And in the past year and a half Canopy’s website has received over 450,000 hits, which means it is a resource for people far beyond Palo Alto’s borders.

Q. What would you like to see Canopy accomplish next under your leadership?
A. The one thing I’d really like to see happen on my watch is for more businesses to recognize the value Palo Alto’s healthy urban forest brings to their customers and employees. And with that recognition I’d like their financial support so Canopy’s annual budget could increase by 25% and put it on a stronger professional footing.

Q. Why do you think it’s important for Palo Altans to support Canopy?
A. Palo Alto’s early residents were truly innovative thinkers. They saw the wisdom in the City owning its own utility department, in building parks throughout the city and in planting trees where roads and houses were built. I value that visionary thinking, it’s a large part of what has made Palo Alto the exceptional city it is. In a nutshell, our trees and the canopy coverage they provide bring Palo Alto significant value; they increase property value, they clear carbon monoxides from the air, they protect us from ultraviolet rays, and they’re a beauty to behold. They should not be taken lightly.

continued from cover

Canopy’s Ivy Buster Workday
On September 17, 92 volunteers came to Mitchell Park and cleared 37 trees of ivy during Canopy’s Ivy Buster workday. Here, Girl Scouts from Troops 647 and 684 cart away the ivy they removed.

Would you like to be the first to know about Canopy events such as Tree Walks, Tree Walks, workshops and volunteer workdays? Be sure you’re on Canopy’s e-mail list! Canopy sends out announcements by e-mail one to two times per month on all upcoming events. You can also help Canopy save money and trees by choosing to receive your newsletter electronically as a pdf file. Hard copies will still be mailed to those who want them. If you would like to join our e-mail list or receive your newsletter electronically, send an email to info@canopy.org with your request.
Volunteer Spotlight: Kacie Draeger
by Katherine Hasnain

A volunteer for Canopy for eight years, Katherine Claire Draeger (better known as Kacie to her many friends at Canopy) is finally departing for her chosen college, the University of the Pacific. Sad though she is to leave Canopy, Kacie cannot help but feel excited to embark on this next, new exciting part of her life.

When asked whether she will worry about leaving Canopy, she confidently says, “I feel that I’ve left Canopy in good hands”—which is quite true. Throughout Kacie’s duration at Canopy, the organization has thrived and spread its roots deep into the community.

“Canopy has strong ground to run on. After all if you find something good, you stick with it,” Kacie says. “All that I know about trees is from Canopy. I’ve learnt planting techniques, that planting pots can suffocate trees, that ants can herd aphids, and a little bit of pruning.” In response to the question whether Canopy has given her a lot, she nods and says, “Yes, but I’ve also given a lot back.”

Perhaps Kacie will continue volunteering at college. But Kacie’s time at Canopy is finally up and we must say goodbye. As her mother, Canopy Board Member Anne Draeger, says, “I’m excited for her. And she’ll still be coming back occasionally in the holidays to help out.”

Donors List 2004-2005
BUSINESSES, CORPORATIONS AND FUNDS
$10,000 or more
PG & E - SfTree
Marty & Judy Deggeller
Nancy Drapkin
Brooks & Marilyn Nelson
Billy Prior
Susan Rosenberg
Roger Smith
Sally Stillman
Jane & Bill Stocklin

Redwood level - $500 -999
Ann & Ken Biodeaux
Ann Bowers
Nancy & John Cassidy
Darrell Duffie & Denise Savoie
Kate Feinberg
Cynthia & John Gunn
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Scott McGilvray
Paul & Joanne Pinsky
Forest Preston &
Glen fellens & Peggy Forsyth
Shalamith Rubinfin
Gail Schubert
Liz Schwerter-Duffie &
Kingston Duffie
Peter Sorrwell
Lanie & David Wheeler
Oak Level - $250 to $499
Simon Brafman
Bill Courington
Joseph & Meni Ehrlich
Leland & Susan Faux
Stephen & Janelle Fodor
Sally & Whit Heaton
Julie & Jon Jerome
Mary Kennedy
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Sycamore - $100 to $249
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Katherine Bass

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Volunteers poured out in early June to help Canopy complete its annual Young Tree Care Survey. Through this program, Canopy volunteers visit all street trees planted in the City of Palo Alto in the past five years. Trees are checked to be sure they are receiving the right care, including proper watering, and information is left with residents. Results of the tree care survey will be sent to the City of Palo Alto’s Tree Division next month.

**Canopy Completes Its Annual Young Tree Care Survey**

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**Top:** Nathan, Gillian & Patrick Lui pose with their surveying equipment.

**Right:** Program Director Jana Dilley walks volunteers through a training for the annual Young Tree Care Survey.
Ask the Arborist
Do you have a burning tree question—one you have never known whom to ask or how? Well, we’ve got the solution for you. Send your question to Canopy at ask@canopy.org. We’ll compile some of the most interesting and thought-provoking questions and publish the answers from arborists. Here’s this issue’s question:

Is my tree getting too friendly with my house?

by Roy C. Leggitt, a Consulting Arborist working in Palo Alto on residential and commercial properties. His work includes diagnosis of tree health, hazard tree assessment, tree inventories and management planning, and tree protection planning for construction projects. He may be reached at RCL3@mindspring.com or 415.606.3610.

Trees get bigger every year, kind of like some of us, but by increasing root and limb length as they add layers of wood. Sometimes a tree simply outgrows its location. There may not be any real problem with a tree, but your plumbing, driveway, foundation, retaining wall or roof may be competing for space.

LimbS overhanging your home may pose a problem. Leaf and debris accumulation can shorten the useful life of the roofing material, and debris in your gutter could cause a backup that overflows where it shouldn’t. Trimming back limbs is one approach, but most often it is best to just plan on an annual cleanup that includes the roof and gutter. Have a Consulting Arborist inspect larger trees and limbs for health and safety where pruning, cabling and bracing are options.

Root impacts are rarely an issue with a modern foundation, but may cause damage to older homes, usually by growing against the foundation wall and pushing it inward. In a similar vein, retaining walls that are not engineered can often be pushed over by roots. Surface concrete such as driveways and walks may be lifted at a seam or a corner, tilting up a large area. This kind of damage is less likely to occur, less extensive and easier to fix if you choose another type of surfacing such as interlocking pavers. A root will occasionally reach around where the sewer line is first leaking and is then entered by roots. What could be better for a root than soil that has aeration, moisture and nutrition from your sewer?

Always check with a Consulting Arborist before your contractor, plumber or landscaper starts work. Roots may be your problem, but they are also important to the health and safety of your tree. A Consulting Arborist can consider options and help you find ways of mitigating damage to the tree.

A TREEmendous Idea for a Gift

No matter what the occasion—birth of a baby, a birthday celebration, to honor a favorite teacher, the holidays, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, graduations, or to honor the memory of a dear friend, a Canopy Tree Planting Gift will never be duplicated. It’s a one-of-a-kind gift that makes it possible for Canopy to plant a new tree in a park or street in Palo Alto. Your honoree will receive a card with your personalized message and the gift will be recognized in the Canopy newsletter. You may choose to give one or several Canopy Tree Planting Gifts for $50 each, or one or several Canopy Tree Planting and Care Gifts for $100 each.

To make a Canopy Tree Gift, call the office at 650.964.6110 or use the form below:

☐ I would like to have a tree planted in honor of a friend. Enclosed is my $50.00 donation.

☐ I would like to have a tree planted and cared for in honor of a friend. Enclosed is my $100.00 donation.

☐ In honor of ____________________________

☐ On the occasion of ____________________________

☐ In memory of ____________________________

Please notify:

Address:

Mail this with your check to: Canopy, 3021 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Due to City of Palo Alto policy, trees are not individually identified at the site where planted.

Canopy’s Leadership

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Jana Dilley, Program Director

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Lanie Wheeler, Treasurer
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Jeanne Kennedy
Larry Klein
Mary McCullough
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Betty Melzer
Nancy Peterson
Carolyn Beller
Lauren Bonar Swezey
John Warren

Coming Events

Saturday, September 24
9 to 11 a.m.
Improving the Health & Longevity of Your Mature Tree

Saturday, November 5
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Selecting & Planting Young Trees

TBA
Bionos Park Planting

Thanks to Our Generous Business Donors

Canopy has recently received a significant gift from the following businesses:

Court House Plaza Company

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