

CANOPY

*Healthy Trees,
Healthy Communities.*

IN THIS ISSUE

Replanting California Avenue Trees	1 & 2
In The Mix	2
Cathedral Southern Live Oak	3
Betty Meltzer Highway Dedication and Canopy Awards Ceremony...	4 & 5
Volunteer Spotlight ...	6
Grants Received	6
Arbor Day Activities...	6
Our Streets Without Trees?	7
Calendar	8

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More Than 150 Canopy Volunteers Replant California Avenue Trees

Dave Muffly

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 Replanting 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



Volunteers cover their new California Avenue tree's roots with structural soil.

"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



Palo Alto Mayor Pat Burt plants his honorary tree.

"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 was given the opportunity to give back to nature and help heal a little piece of Mother Earth! Thank you Canopy and our lovely City! This was truly a good deed... indeed."

*Leslie Gates,
Evergreen Park, Palo Alto*



In The Mix:

- 1 marching band
- 1 bottle of Ohlone 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)

continued from page 1

Promptly at 9am, a very special part of the planting began with a group performing Native American Ohlone blessings for the tree planting. They performed rites from deep in their cultural history, each planting site receiving sacred smoke, water and corn meal.

Simultaneously, Planting Leaders assembled and were trained by Canopy's Master Arborist Dave Muffly and Sharon Kelly. Despite the size of the trees (between 10 and 15 feet tall, most with 2-inch trunk calipers) the planting techniques were simple. Because the trees had been carefully selected in the nursery, and had already received any needed root girdling/defect mitigation by Canopy volunteers and City staff, the trees were immediately ready for their new, permanent homes. The volunteers were tasked with getting each tree into its hole, positioning it carefully, and refilling the holes. During the demonstration, Planting Leaders also learned that the contractors were to handle the 'volunteer-unfriendly' finishing work: placement of 50 gallons of water, a tree grate, and two steel tree support posts bolted to the beefy metal grates.

As the demonstration unfolded, the many planting volunteers were signed-in and prepared. People chatted, photos were taken, laughter could be heard, and the overall feeling was one of celebration and relief. Everyone gathered at 10am for introductions and instructions. With words of thanks for all involved in this rather unprecedented effort, the replanting began in earnest.

Starting from El Camino, the plantings proceeded smoothly, despite the heft of the trees and the precision required. There was plenty of hard work involved: positioning the trees and shoveling the granite-based structural soil.

At this point, a clamorous surprise arrived, in the form of the world famous Stanford Marching Band, accompanied by cheerleaders and, yes, the Stanford Tree! After playing at the sign-in area, the band set up shop near the corner of Birch, and serenaded the last trees going into their new homes. At this point, the mood was positively ebullient.

With the band moving on, 12:30 PM signalled the Mayor's Planting, featuring current Mayor Pat Burt, and previous Mayor Peter Drekmeier. A nice crowd assembled, more kind words were shared, and a happy closure was created for what stands as a special day in Palo Alto history.

NOW GRACING CALIFORNIA AVENUE...

'Cathedral' Southern Live Oak Quercus virginiana 'Cathedral'

Dave Muffly

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 broad-leaf 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 so 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 allees. 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 ability to adapt 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.



Quercus virginiana 'Cathedral' leaves.

Did You Know?

Live oak was frequently used in early American shipbuilding. Lumber from live oak was often used to make curved structural elements of the hull such as knee braces, because of the trees' naturally curving branches. The grain in these cuts of lumber lies perpendicular to lines of stress resulting in exceptional strength.

CANOPY CELEBRATES:

Annual Party and Dedication of the Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway



Jack Morton said, "When you see this sign on El Camino, ask yourself, 'What would Betty do?'"



Javier Magaña receives the Student Forester Award from Marty Deggeller.

Susan Rosenberg

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**.

2010 Award Recipients

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 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.



Senator Joe Simitian, Bob Meltzer and his family celebrate the Betty Meltzer Memorial Highway dedication.

Join Canopy & City of Palo Alto

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.

Canopy Acknowledges Generous Grants Received Recently From:

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



Volunteer Spotlight— Chris Melville & Anapoorna Akella

Anwyn Hurxthal

"I never thought I'd be interested in apples! They're too well-tred," 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 like to learn more about the physical compatability of plants and trees." Canopy's Tree Stewart Workshops have provided both Chris and Anapoorna with insight into their interests, as have Arborist Kevin Rafferty's pruning sessions and Dave Muffy'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.

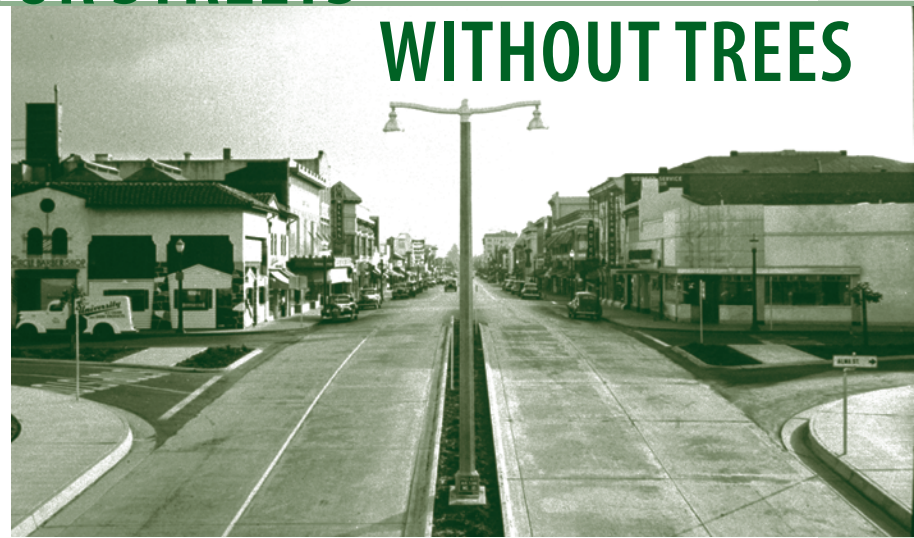
About their experience with Canopy, Chris says "It's amazing there's such an organization! It's a neat resource!"

IMAGINE OUR STREETS WITHOUT TREES

*We need your help now to
ensure we have a thriving
urban forest in years to come!*

Urban forests require foresight. Long term planning and care of trees will provide us with lasting benefits.

Despite decreased funding, economic uncertainty and increasingly challenging urban environments for trees, Canopy is committed to continue our steadfast work growing healthy trees and healthy communities.



University Avenue, 1941 Palo Alto Historical Association

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. NOTE: 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 full extent allowed by the law,
Tax ID: 01-0565752.

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

You can also donate at www.canopy.org.



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

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*

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