

# 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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## We Live in a Watershed

By Ryan Navratil, Program Director—San Francisquito Watershed Council and Genevra Ornelas, Program Director—Canopy

We live in a house, we live in a city. We live in a house in a city in a watershed. Through the watershed we are all connected by our actions. "A watershed is that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community."—John Wesley Powell.

In the watershed our actions follow the course of the water, touching everything. This is most noticeable when considering the effects of urbanization on the watershed.

A typical scene of our Mediterranean climate during the rainy season is a long rainy day like the ones in January. When it rains, stretches of San Francisquito creek that appear bone dry in July can move a volume of water greater than that of an Olympic-sized swimming pool in just a shade under 15 seconds. This is the magic of our watershed.

The San Francisquito Watershed, covers 45 square miles of urban and "natural" landscape. Bound by the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west, side streams, pocket creeks and rills channel water into Bear, Corte Madera and Los Trancos Creeks, the main tributaries of San Francisquito Creek. All the water that drains through this landscape ends up in the Bay.

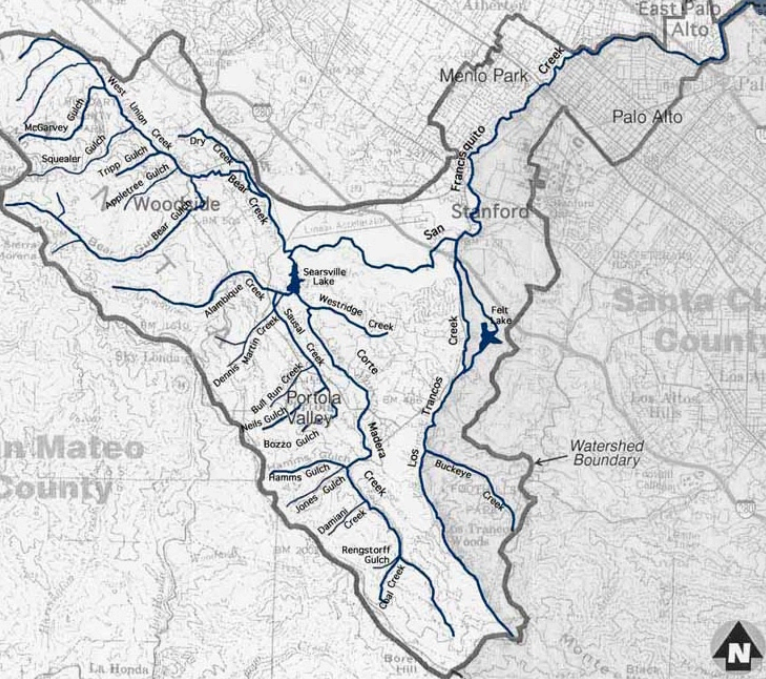
Our landscape is beautiful, and more and more people everyday look for a place to call home in our watershed. That's great, but it means we are increasing the amount of hardscape in our collective backyard as we build more homes, streets and sidewalks to accommodate them, especially creekside. But if the San Francisquito Creek is so efficient at moving water, why is hardscape such a problem?

The answer lies again in the fact that everything in this watershed is connected. The creek is not separate from the terrestrial ecosystem or from your backyard for that matter. Trees and other plants in your backyard, downtown, etc. retain and filter a fair amount of rain water, slowing its discharge into the creek system. The earth itself acts as a filter to clean and purify water of herbicides, pesticides, heavy metals, and other toxins so they don't end up in the Bay. Retaining

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*In a watershed our actions follow the course of the water, touching everything.*





*The San Francisquito Creek Watershed map from the website: [www.sanfrancisquito.org/resources/maps/](http://www.sanfrancisquito.org/resources/maps/) (courtesy of the San Francisquito Watershed Council).*

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water also means that less water flows through the municipal storm management system. This means the system may have less need for repair, saving the city money.

When water falls on hardscape, however, it takes a quick shortcut directly into the creek system, which not only means less purification but less retention. Retention in this case means “the holding capacity for water in the watershed,” or put bluntly, “how likely/quickly the creek will overflow.” During heavy rains, storm water sheets off roads, parking lots, driveways, etc. directly into the creek, dramatically increasing peak flows.

Think of softscape (areas where water can infiltrate into the soil) as a roll of paper towels separating your sink from your kitchen floor. Remove softscape, and you’re more likely to have a bit of a wet mess on your hands.

There are a myriad of strategies for reducing runoff, pervious concrete, replacing turfgrass with natives, etc., but few offer the wealth of benefits we gain from preserving and creating green space in our cities. Trees should be included in that greenscape.

One mature Oak can retain 50 gallons of water per day that might otherwise flush into our streams. Roots from trees stabilize the soil and prevent large-scale stream bank loss during high flow events. Creek-side vegetation can help maintain “natural” sediment exchange, with benefits to wild life and overall health of the creek system.

Urban forests have the potential to reduce costs associated with runoff damage by millions of dollars. Trees also use less water than lawns. Add to these watershed benefits the benefits trees offer to the air, the ‘urban heat island’, wildlife, our psychological well being, our property values, our picnics and our days at the park, and it may provide yet another example of why trees are a good place to look for innovative solutions within the urban environment.

## Trees for El Camino

*By Susan Rosenberg*

A mix of Live oak and London plane trees, a total of 20 trees, will soon be planted in the medians in front of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation on El Camino Real. “This outstanding project, a partnership between the City of Palo Alto and the Trees for El Camino Project, adds to the concept of a Grand Boulevard right here in Palo Alto,” said Betty Meltzer, co-chair of the Trees for El Camino Project.

The City’s landscape architect, Chris Rafferty, designed this planting to match phase one, planted four years ago, in the median south of Embarcadero Road. The vision of the Trees for El Camino Project was to transform El Camino Real into a shaded thoroughfare that would benefit pedestrians and motorists alike.



# Canopy to Receive Tall Tree Award

## Recognized for Exceptional Civic Contributions & Community Service

Canopy is among the four recipients of the Chamber of Commerce's 29th Annual Tall Tree Awards. The Tall Tree Award lauds Canopy for having "contributed significantly to the betterment of the community, often quietly, steadily and unheralded."

"For Canopy to receive the honor of a Tall Tree Award, while still a relatively young sapling in Palo Alto's world of nonprofits, is quite astonishing," observes Board Chair Susan Rosenberg. "I am so proud of the recognition we've received for the work we do."

In 2006/2007 Canopy planted close to a thousand trees in East Palo Alto, in addition to its ongoing tree care, community education and planting programs throughout Palo Alto. Canopy also received Home Depot's 2007 Neighborwoods Award for its extensive local tree work.

"We're honored to receive this prestigious Tall Tree Award, and to be shoulder to shoulder with such an admirable group of recipients," explains Canopy's Executive Director Catherine Martineau. "Through this award, the Chamber of Commerce acknowledges the numerous benefits that trees provide our communities, as well as the hard work of our dynamic volunteers, friends and supporters."

Tall Tree Awards are presented in four categories, "Outstanding Citizen/Volunteers, Outstanding Professionals, Outstanding Businesses and Outstanding Non-Profits." The Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce and the Palo Alto Weekly jointly sponsor the Annual Tall Tree Awards. The 2008 awards will be formally presented April 17.

## Donors and Volunteers Deserve Thanks for Award

Canopy has worked for over eleven years to educate, inspire and engage the community as stewards of young and mature trees. We surely have not accomplished this mission alone. A healthy urban forest represents so much more than the forest itself. It is an expressed commitment made by many hands in many settings to create a beautiful community that supports both the functionality of our modern day world and our well being.

All of you volunteers, donors, and tree enthusiasts have come to tree plantings, tree care events, workshops, tree walks, and lectures to participate actively in Canopy's mission. Thus it is with all of you in mind that this award will be accepted and it will serve as a reminder of the many hands it took to earn it and the trees we all love. Thank you all and we hope to see you at our next event.

"As each needle is important to the form of the redwood tree, each citizen helps shape the community."

*The Tall Tree image and quote printed on the awards.  
Courtesy of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce.*





# Mayor's Party Honors Volunteers



Yoriko Kishimoto, outgoing mayor, adds to Palo Alto's urban forest.

Canopy honored five Palo Alto residents for outstanding tree care efforts at the **12th Annual Mayor's Tree Planting Ceremony** and party on January 10th.

Outgoing Palo Alto Mayor, **Yoriko Kishimoto**, planted a *Frontier Elm* tree at the The Mayor's Tree Planting Ceremony held at Greenmeadow Community Association.

Urban forestry volunteers were recognized at the annual party immediately following the ceremony. This year, Canopy's **Out on a Limb Awards**, for outstanding urban forestry volunteers, went to:

**Hans Weber** who dedicated countless hands-on hours of digging, mulching, planting and 'good cheer' to local urban forestry work.

High school junior **Allen Chen** who completed his Eagle Scout project by building a tool shed to house all of Canopy's tools.

**Jack Wilson** who valiantly delivered piles of mulch to the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative plantings.

Canopy's annual **Soforenko Awards** significant contributions to our local urban forest. This year the awards are for:

**Ron Bracewell**, (In memoriam), renowned Stanford professor emeritus of electrical engineering who produced a scholarly survey in "Trees of Stanford and Environs."

**Joe Vallaire**, Superintendent of the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course, who worked to restore the golf course tree canopy and arranged storage for some six hundred trees to be planted in East Palo Alto.

**Chuck McDonnell**, Palo Alto Unified School District Operations Supervisor, advocated for mature native oaks on Palo Alto Unified School District campuses.

**Virginia Warheit**, Senior Planner, City of Palo Alto (retired), for her tireless work on *The El Camino Real Master Schematic Design Plan* in conjunction with the *Trees for El Camino* project.



Genevra Ornelas, Canopy's Program Director, congratulates Allen Chen, Hans Weber and Jack Wilson who all went **Out on a Limb** for Canopy.

# This Award Is for My Grandfather

by Chuck McDonnell



*Liz Kniss, SC County Supervisor, congratulates Soforenko Award winner, Chuck McDonnell.*

I can see it now, tucked somewhere in some obscure section of the newspaper, the following blurb will appear:

"Redneck receives award from local tree organization. Canopy gives award to blue collar, government employee—somewhere Diana Diamond and her blog are fuming."

Accepting this award doesn't mean I have to go to Berkeley and tree sit, does it?

When Geneva first told me about this event and award I said, why me? How did I get it and who's responsible? In order for me to answer that question, I need to go back in time and take you with me.

You're going to need to do something we, as adults, don't do often enough. We're going to have to use our imaginations. Now to make it easier—close your eyes, let your minds visualize what I am saying, use all your senses to guide you. Experience what and who brought us to this moment.

It's a warm, beautiful spring day. A gentle breeze is stirring; the clothes on the clothesline are gently swaying. The fragrances from citrus, peach, and apricot blooms tease your nose with the anticipation of fruitful bounties that will come in the following months.

Overhead, the blue jays are screeching and flying from tree to tree in a bird's game of tag.

Chickens scratch through the compost pile, and an occasional loud cackling is heard announcing the arrival of another egg.

A man in overalls with calloused hands and a weathered face walks by and chuckles to himself. He turns and speaks, "Chuck, quit daydreaming and come help me with the walnut trees."

As I rush to help the man, I overhear him say, "Going to be a good year for the trees and crops."

I spend the next ten years listening, talking, and learning from the man. He speaks often about trees, nature, life, and how they are all interwoven.

He taught me to respect and cherish the natural beauty and wonders that surround us.

He knew and lived green before it was a politically correct catch phrase. Part mentor, part educator, he instilled in me the need to propagate and protect what mother earth has given us.

This award doesn't belong to me; it belongs to the man who gave me the guidance, understanding, and love to do the right thing.

I accept this award for that man, Charles Oliver Lockwood—my grandfather.

Thank you.



*Liz Kniss recognizes Joe Vallaire with a certificate after Susan Rosenberg presents his Soforenko Award.*

# A Day in the Life of Eric Krebs

By Urban K. Cummings

If it takes a big man to fill big shoes, then Eric Krebs, ASCA, ISA, is the man to follow Dave Sandage as Managing Arborist in the Palo Alto Public Works Dept. Eric was one of Dave's right-hand men for almost all of his 18 years with the City, so he is well prepared to carry-out his new assignment.



Here's what a "ride along" with Eric on a typical morning involves.

First stop—cut back foliage on one of the city's curb strip Sycamore trees to let more light onto their photovoltaic cell solar array.

Second stop—cut tree roots for new construction on Byron to accommodate the new driveway location and relocation of the utilities entrance from the street. A call to the builder to allow the changes is made without tree-threatening root removal.

Third stop—relocate power poles along Alma Street without taking out mature Oak trees. Together with Dave Doctor, City Arborist in the Planning Dept, he proposes a compromise to the Engineering Dept. to preserve our canopy and lower future maintenance costs.

When you ask Eric about his priorities for Palo Alto's trees, you find out quickly. "Taking good care of the trees we have and adding more judiciously has #1 priority." As for his pet peeves, it would probably be the destruction of trees by new construction that causes root loss or life-threatening damage.

Whether it is house foundations, driveways or privacy walls, tree loss can be avoided with greater tree awareness and proper planning. Eric often proposes using a new method of excavating soil without root destruction. It's called an "air spade" or "air knife" and uses a powerful air compressor in conjunction with a nozzle created with technology borrowed from the Space programs. It permits construction without damaging the roots. Great technology!

Born in Oregon, but living most of his life in Northern CA, Eric is the perfect fit for his mission. His love of trees dovetails with his avocation as a woodworking hobbyist. A dedicated outdoorsman and serious Sierra Club advocate, he says, "back-packing is my calling."

Being with Eric on a typical morning makes me think. Because of all the new construction going on in our city, shouldn't there be a third arborist working with Eric and Dave Doctor to maintain the high standards of our beloved canopy of trees?

## Arbor Day for Kids

March 8, 1 pm at  
Children's Library

1276 Harriet Street, Palo Alto

Bring your children or grandchildren to Canopy's special Arbor Day events Saturday, March 8th at 1 pm. Kids can engage in an array of fun, hands-on activities at the Arbor Day celebration organized jointly by Canopy and the Children's Library.

Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. This year marks the 134th celebration of the unique day. At the Children's Library, grades K-5 and their families will be able to enjoy various tree themed activities including:

- A tree book display
- Tree story time
- A brief Arbor Day ceremony
- A romping neighborhood tree walk
- Fun, hands-on acorn activities
- Hand-outs for coloring and informational pieces about trees

"Arbor day is such a great opportunity to celebrate and enjoy the trees around us," explains Geneva Ornelas, Canopy's Program Director. "Our fun activities at the Children's Library will help kids learn more about trees and understand the many ways we all benefit from our urban forest."





Anwyn Hurxthal brings her rich background to Canopy.

# Canopy Welcomes New Staff

Anwyn Hurxthal has joined Canopy as Development and Communications Manager to plan and oversee the marketing, special events and public relations efforts for the organization. Working part time, she already has enhanced the link with media and donors to increase awareness in the community of Canopy's work and aspirations. From now on when you see brochures, articles and invitations to Canopy events they will be from Anwyn's desk. She is also playing a major role in planning and organizing the June fund raising event with Thomas Pakenham. Save the date, June 22, and keep your eyes peeled for more of Anwyn's creativity.

Anwyn comes to Canopy with over a decade of experience in cause-related communications and public relations. She served as a communications liaison for Oxfam for seven years, leading PR efforts in her native Africa, Europe and throughout the Americas. She subsequently managed cause-related marketing initiatives for Cone Inc. in Boston and Washington D.C., building corporate/nonprofit partnerships. In addition, she led D.C.-based Direct Impact Company's creative work for grassroots marketing initiatives. Anwyn holds a Degree in Anthropology from Boston University as well as advanced creative training from The Corcoran College of Art and Design.

## NOTE

Canopy is expanding and is beginning to consider seeking a larger office. Please contact Catherine Martineau, Executive Director, [catherine@canopy.org](mailto:catherine@canopy.org), if you know of any space available for this growing nonprofit!

## 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!

# WINTER 2008

## TREEWALKS EVERY MONTH

### coming events

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

#### March 1

**9:00 am–Noon**

*Tree Planting at Golf Course*  
1875 Embarcadero Rd.

#### March 8

**1:00–4:00 pm**

*Arbor Day Celebration*  
Children's Library  
1276 Harriet St.

#### April 19

**9:00 am–Noon**

*Managing Fruit Trees*  
*Workshop*  
Location TBA

#### Every Saturday in March

**9:00–Noon**

*Join Canopy for East Palo Alto Tree Initiative tree maintenance.* For details see: [genevra@canopy.org](mailto:genevra@canopy.org)



## Canopy Leadership

### Board of Directors

Susan Rosenberg, *Chair*  
Marty Deggeller, *Vice-Chair*  
Lanie Wheeler, *Treasurer*  
Roy C. Leggett, III, *Secretary*  
Martha Blackwell  
Faye Brown  
Urban K. Cummings  
Dr. Don Laub  
Guadalupe Martinez  
Dave Muffly  
Brooks Nelson  
Forest Preston, III

### Staff

Catherine Martineau  
*Executive Director*  
Genevra Ornelas  
*Program Director*  
Anwyn Hurxthal  
*Dev. & Comm. Manager*

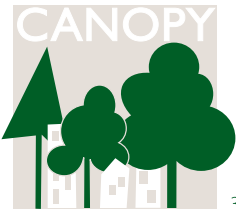
### Advisory Committee

Tony Carrasco  
Anne Draeger  
Herb Fong  
Patricia Foster  
Carroll Harrington  
Joe Hirsch  
Leannah Hunt  
Carol Jansen  
Jeanne Kennedy  
John McClenahan  
Mary McCullough  
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Carolyn Reller  
Jane Stocklin  
Lauren Bonar Swezey

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