

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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13th Annual Party Honors Mayor and Volunteers

Canopy's Annual Party started under a sunny January sky in the front lawn of Classic Residence by Hyatt with the 13-year tradition of planting a tree to honor the outgoing City of Palo Alto Mayor. It was more than fitting that for former mayor, Larry Klein, Canopy planted with the environmental anthem, Renew, Reuse, Recycle, in mind. Klein has been a champion of environmental issues beginning with his first term on the City Council in 1981. With this planting we continue to renew Palo Alto's urban forest, we reused (replanted) a mature oak that otherwise would have been discarded, and we recycled by mulching the tree with wood chips.

Once the tree was in the ground, the party moved into Classic Residence by Hyatt where Canopy's Executive Director **Catherine Martineau** introduced **Yoriko Kishimoto**, Palo Alto City Council member, **Ruben Abrica**, East Palo Alto Mayor, and **Scott Strickland**, Senior Policy Analyst, office of County of Santa Clara Supervisor **Liz Kniss**.

Canopy Board member, **Marty Deggeller** presented the "Out on a Limb" Awards to Alan Broad who provided extensive support on the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative, and to the Eastside College Preparatory

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Classic Residence by Hyatt hosts planting and awards ceremony.



Volunteers proudly show off their awards at the Annual Party.



Canopy Presents

E. O. Wilson

Biodiversity and Our Future
Healing Mother Earth

Benefit Lecture for Canopy

May 10, 2009

4:00 PM

Spangenberg Auditorium—Palo Alto

Honorary Chair

Donald Kennedy, President Emeritus
Stanford University

Master of Ceremonies

Michael Krasny, Host of KQED's Forum

Canopy is honored to bring E. O. Wilson to Palo Alto. Named one of America's 25 Most Influential People by TIME magazine, and considered Darwin's natural heir, Dr. Wilson is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and has made a giant contribution to our understanding of the rich spectrum of Earth's biodiversity.

Wilson invites us to share his optimism that we still have an opportunity to save the living things and wild places that sustain us and give us hope.

This unique environmental lecture will fund Canopy's award-winning work and in particular Canopy's plantings and educational programs in local schools.

For more information and tickets visit www.canopy.org. To learn more about the benefits of individual and corporate sponsorships call Catherine Martineau at 650-964-6110, or e-mail catherine@canopy.org.

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School Step-by-Step Club who have consistently provided Canopy with support at plantings in East Palo Alto and Palo Alto.

Canopy's Program Director, **Sharon Kelly**, presented the Student Forester Award to **James Childs** who, as a Summit Preparatory High School senior, was part of Canopy's Youth Employment Program and became Sharon's "right hand man" by providing leadership support during our volunteer events.

The Arnold Soforenko Awards, named for Canopy's founding treasurer, were presented by **Susan Rosenberg** who recalled Arnold's steady guidance on all financial matters in the early years of the organization. The award is given annually to those who, like Arnold, have made an extraordinary effort to preserve and enhance Palo Alto's urban forest. Honored with the Soforenko Awards this year were:

Kirsten Essenmacher, a member of the Alumni and Friends of Palo Alto High School, who worked closely with Canopy and the Palo Alto Unified School District, raised the necessary funds, and oversaw all planning that resulted in more than 150, mostly native, trees being planted in the parking lot of Palo Alto High School.

Jay Farr, City of East Palo Alto Maintenance Division Manager, and his maintenance crews for their support on the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative. Jay and his crews continue to be instrumental in the ongoing success of this major planting, over 1,100 trees to date.

Classic Residence by Hyatt in Palo Alto, for outstanding landscape management practices. The City of Palo Alto requires trees on new developments. In the case of this project, the team associated with the design, construction and management went above and beyond to protect significant trees and plant additional trees on this historical site. Team members named in the award are: Steve Brudnick, Executive Director, Dennis Lopiccolo, Director of Engineering, and Ray Morneau, Consulting Arborist, Rick Story, Associate, SWA Group for Landscape Architecture, and Max Ornelas, Maniglia Landscape Service owner, and Miguel Medina, General Manager.

Susan Rosenberg congratulates Larry Klein beside the tree planted in his honor.



My Favorite Tree—the European Beech

Chuck House

Season in and season out, my very favorite tree—rarely grown in our parts, but splendid when given enough time—is the European Beech, *Fagus sylvatica*. Green Beech, the standard, is Denmark's National Tree. An allee of 600 year old graceful giants line the waterway at Holland's fabled Keukenhof Tulip Gardens. American gardeners more frequently know the purple-leaf variant, the Copper Beech. Some are familiar with the Weeping Beech; only a few know the Golden Beech, Fernleaf Beech, or the Tricolor Beech. Very few specimens of the columnar green or purple cultivars are seen, but when they are grown well, they have commanding presence.

What makes this tree so special?

It starts with the satiny-smooth bark, prominent year-round, with long, pointed buds on slender arching branches during the winter dormant season. The effect is startlingly graceful for a stout, sturdy tree. Inconspicuous flowers produce Beech-Nuts, cherished by squirrels.

The elliptical leaves with a serrated edge are compelling. Unfurling majestically in late spring as perfect miniatures of the eventual leaf, they hold their glossy surface color all summer. Fall color is a rich golden brown, and the leaves hang on late into winter, often falling only as new buds emerge in spring.

Shade, and plenty of it, is the order of the day. European and native American Beech forests are dark underneath a full canopy of leaves. The American Beech shares many of the characteristics of the standard European Beech, but has almost no cultivars. Reputedly it is hard to transplant, so its landscaping use is minimal.



Stately Beeches grace our city.

Where Can You See Beech Trees?

The Canopy Crescent Park tree walk cites the twenty-foot Green Beech at 1211 Hamilton. Alas, this tree is quite unhappy with pavement all about its roots. Young beech trees are surface feeders, preferring consistent water they are happier in lawns. Established trees do handle moderate drought.

The Canopy Old Palo Alto tree walk cites the Copper Beech at 505 Lowell in the side yard. This forty-five foot tree is magnificently structured. Others listed in Canopy tree walks include one at 3756 Cass Way in Barron Park, another at 244 Greenmeadow Way, and a third at the Art Center by the Library.

Two magnificent Copper Beeches are at 435 and 470 Santa Rita Avenue, probably eighty years old. Around the corner, three young Copper Beeches grace the entry gate at 2101 Waverley.

At the corner of Tennyson and Bryant are two Copper Beeches. The larger, forty feet tall, is in the back yard of 299 Tennyson. The second is in the back yard of 1749 Bryant.

A particularly well-shaped forty-five foot Copper Beech is in the front yard at 1400 Hamilton Avenue. Nearby is a younger twenty-five foot Copper Beech at 6 Tevis Lane.

Planting the Seeds of Tree Stewardship



"I like trees because they clean the air"

Educational Program: Viva La Urban Forest!

Last year Canopy was awarded a Cal Fire grant to develop a new tree education program. Our new program called "Viva La Urban Forest!" includes science workshops about trees and their relationship with air, temperature and water in an urban environment. We will be doing some pilot workshops with elementary school classes this spring. Canopy hopes to find sponsors and expand the program to more classes next year.

Sharon Kelly, Canopy Program Director

When is the best time to plant trees? 20 years ago! The seeds of environmental awareness also need to be sown early in childhood to help children mature into the leaders of tomorrow. Canopy has been working harder than ever to provide hands-on educational opportunities for students and to plant and protect the trees that bring shade, beauty and sustainability to our local campuses.

School Plantings: Canopy opened the planting season this fall by planting trees at 3 schools in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. In October we planted young trees with 100 kindergartners at Edison Brentwood Academy, a charter school in Ravenswood City School District and with 100 kindergartners at Escondido Elementary in Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD). Each group of students participated in an interactive tree lesson. Children took turns adding a trowel of soil or watering. They shared with Canopy the reasons why they like trees. My favorite answer: "Oranges!"

Canopy celebrated Neighborwoods Month on October 25 with our Planting Leader Training and Volunteer Planting at Palo Alto High School. Close to 40 volunteers helped, including the Out on a Limb Award winning Step by Step club from Eastside Preparatory School, Circle K Club members from Stanford University, students from Woodside Priory School, Soferenko Award winner, Kirsten Essenmacher from the Friends and Alumni of Palo Alto High, PAUSD staff and many new and experienced volunteers from the Canopy community. We added more than 25 native trees to the Paly parking area and trained several future Canopy Planting Leaders. In February, Canopy will plant another 16 trees at Duveneck Elementary School with Kiwanis Club Volunteers.

We have submitted two grant proposals to the California Department of Forestry (Cal Fire) which could support planting at numerous schools in EPA and PA next year. Planting with students instills pride in their school campus and creates lifelong relationships between people and the environment. As these trees mature they will shade children's play areas, prevent heat-island effects in parking lots, increase energy efficiency in school buildings and provide cleaner air and water for our community.

at Local Schools



"I like trees because I like to climb them."



"I like trees because I like to sit in their shade"

School Tree Policy

Canopy and a subcommittee of PAUSD's Sustainable Schools Committee are developing a school tree policy. The goal is to promote a healthy and sustainable environment by increasing and maintaining trees on school campuses.

The committee hopes that the unique tree policy will be adopted by the School Board along with board endorsed guidelines which will promote the use of native and climate-appropriate trees, support increased educational planting activities, shade play areas, make school buildings more energy efficient, protect historic campus trees and influence current master planning efforts.

The policy will endorse current PAUSD practices including a review process for tree removals and new tree plantings. Canopy has been working closely as an advisor to the district at Gunn and Palo Alto High Schools.



New planting leaders celebrate their accomplishments.

We have connected the district with volunteer or city arborists and continue to provide advice about tree care and selection. PAUSD may be the first school district in the state and possibly the nation to adopt a school tree policy. Our policy could be used as a model for schools around the world.

Stanford Terrace Inn Is A Green Partner

If your guests during the holidays took advantage of The Stanford Terrace Inn's CO₂ Special Rate, they contributed to making Palo Alto greener. We are most grateful that the

hotel made a contribution to Canopy for each room reserved at the CO₂ Special Rate. These added up to a very generous gift of \$1,750!

This genuine concern for the environment is not surprising from the first hotel in Palo Alto to receive a Green Business Certification more than 6 years ago. In addition to an extensive recycling program, the

installation of low-flow toilets and energy efficient light bulbs, the Stanford Terrace Inn uses recycled paper products and purchases renewable energy from the City of Palo Alto. Visit <http://www.stanfordterraceinn.com/> for more information and to make reservations.



Committee for Green Foothills Shares Prize

Last summer Canopy competed in Patagonia's "Voice Your Choice" contest for a grant for environmental non-profits. Committee for Green Foothills (CGF) received the most votes and won the grant. In a collaborative environmental gesture, their board decided to share the wealth with Canopy. CGF Director Matthew Burrows and Office Manager Wendy Crofoot presented a \$500 check to Canopy's board. We would like to thank them for their generosity and vision.

Betty Meltzer Remembered

Susan Rosenberg

While leaves were beginning to fall from Palo Alto's deciduous trees last September, my friend Betty Meltzer died after a long battle with



*Betty Meltzer,
Co-Founder of
the Trees for El
Camino Project*

cancer. I met Betty when she came to Canopy in 1999 with an idea: to transform El Camino Real into a beautifully shaded, tree-lined street. El Camino Real, translated, is "the royal road" and to Betty, there was nothing royal about the portion that ran through Palo Alto. "Dribs and drabs" was the way she described the "de facto" urban plan for one of Palo Alto's major thoroughfares.

The transformation would occur, she told me, when El Camino Real becomes a tree-lined boulevard extending the length of Palo Alto, from Menlo Park in the north to Los Altos in the south. I couldn't resist her passion, and it was a plan for trees, so we joined forces. In our exuberant naivete, we thought the whole project would be completed in a couple of years.

Betty and I were co-chairs, but the mastermind who went the extra mile, was Betty. We had hundreds of meetings at my kitchen counter (I'm not exaggerating!). All sorts of things got in our way, including the dot-com bust, but not her cancer. Not for one minute did it slow her down.

There were meetings with the Trees for El Camino Project Board, city staff, Caltrans officials, Stanford planners, and potential donors. Betty was at every one.

I won't say the project is complete, there are always new trees to plant, old ones to maintain, and an irrigation system to monitor, but the project continues to grow. The City of Palo Alto now has a plan that includes trees for any development that takes place on El Camino Real.

Hundreds of new trees have been planted. As the trees mature and their canopies spread wide they'll provide shade for those who walk, ride a bike, drive a car, or sit in a bus on El Camino Real, and they will serve as a legacy to Betty.

There have been many memorial gifts made to Canopy by Betty's family and friends. They honor her work to enhance Palo Alto's urban forest. Canopy is deeply grateful for their generosity.

Congratulations to Sharon

Sharon Kelly, Canopy's Program Director became a Certified Arborist on December 6, 2008. The Certified Arborist exam is administered by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Over 200 questions cover tree biology, identification, soil, water and fertilizer relationships, selection, installation, pruning, support, protection, diagnosis, risk management and safety. Sharon qualified for the exam based on multiple years of experience in botany, horticulture and urban forestry. She prepared during the busy fall planting season, took the exam at the Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco and happily received her results just after the holidays. She is especially excited to learn more about tree diagnosis and risk assessment to aid in the preservation of our beautiful mature trees. She feels lucky to be surrounded by so many wonderful and knowledgeable arborists at Canopy.



Canopy Program Director Sharon Kelly (right) pictured with fellow ISA Certified Arborist and Canopy Program Committee Member Carole Langston during the Old Palo Alto Tree Walk in November 2008.

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 2009

TREEWALKS EVERY MONTH

coming events

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

March 14, 10 am–1 pm

Tree Walk and Arbor Day Celebration—Junior Museum and Zoo (JMZ) and Rinconada Park with arborist Carole Langston, Canopy staff and volunteers. Meet outside the front entrance of the JMZ, 1451 Middlefield Road.

March 24, 9 am–2:45 pm

Tree planting at East Palo Alto Community School (EPACS) with Castilleja volunteers. Experienced Planting Leaders Needed!

April 4, time TBA

East Palo Alto Health and Safety Fair and tree planting at Castaño school. Experienced Planting Leaders Needed!

April 11, 10 am–12 pm

Tree Walk—Green Meadow with arborist John McClenahan. Meet at the end of Greenmeadow Way next to the Greenmeadow Community Center, 303 Parkside Dr., Palo Alto.

May 9, 10 am–12 pm

Tree Walk—West Bayshore with arborist Chris Regan. Meet at Ohlone School, 950 Amarillo Ave., Palo Alto.

May 10, 4 pm

E. O. Wilson Benefit Lecture
Spangenberg Auditorium,
Gunn H.S., Palo Alto.
Go to Canopy.org for tickets.

Canopy Leadership

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