

A publication of California ReLeaf

California Trees

www.californiareleaf.org

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Empowering grassroots efforts and building strategic partnerships that preserve, protect, and enhance California's urban and community forests.



Young tree hugger Jesse Krause doesn't need to be told that trees are good for the environment!

Increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are of growing concern globally and locally, and California has pledged to be a forerunner in the fight against global climate change by reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

Many of us would like to help but aren't sure what to do. Strategies at the personal scale range from the mundane (using compact fluorescent light bulbs) to the expensive (switching to a hybrid car) to the smelly (converting french fry grease into diesel fuel). All have some disadvantages. But there is one solution sure to appeal to readers of this newsletter, who are likely to find it a strategy without a flaw: we can plant trees.

The Role of Trees

Why trees? Trees have one big advantage compared to all other methods of addressing global warming: they actually remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Most existing strategies and plans for the future work to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and other gases being produced without addressing the already high levels that currently exist. Trees, however, take carbon dioxide from the

air and transform it into living matter—branches, trunks, leaves, flowers, and roots. A large tree can remove and store several tons of greenhouse gases over a lifetime.

At the same time, urban trees have a second, equally important advantage. Trees help moderate air temperatures and thereby reduce our need to burn fossil fuels to produce energy for air conditioning and heating. Every kilowatt-hour of electricity or therm of natural gas reduced means less carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (and also fewer air pollutants, less wasted water, and lower energy bills). A judiciously placed large tree *(continued on page 2)*

California ReLeaf Grant Alert! Applications due March 28

Grant funds are now available for education, outreach, and tree care projects. Non-profit organizations and unincorporated community groups with a financial sponsor are eligible to apply. The program is funded through a contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Visit www.californiareleaf.org for information.

California ReLeaf is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to empower grassroots efforts and build strategic partnerships that preserve, protect, and enhance California's urban and community forests.

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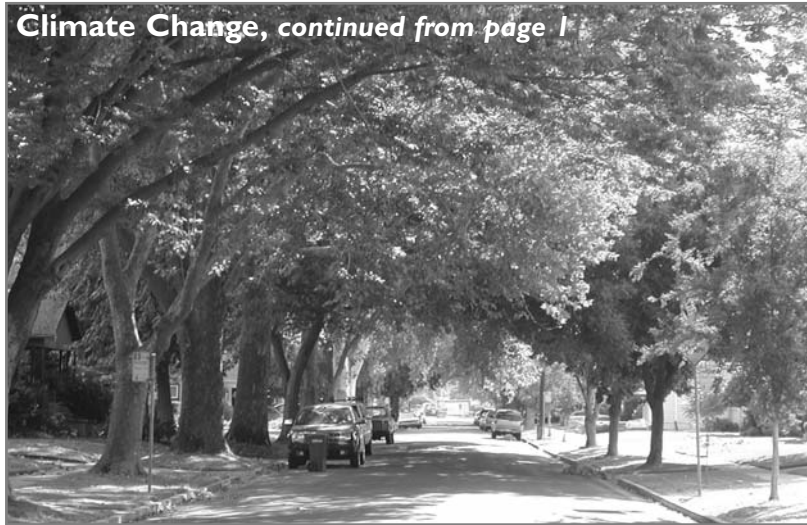
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The crape myrtles on the right side of the photo will never match the carbon sequestration benefits or the energy conservation benefits of the London plane trees on the left.

in California's San Joaquin Valley can reduce carbon dioxide emissions from energy production by another several tons over its lifetime. (For information on determining the energy and carbon benefits of your own tree, see the *Online Resources* box, page 4).

Maximizing Greenhouse Gas Sequestration

Every tree planted works to sequester greenhouse gases, but some do more work than others. How can we maximize the amount of carbon dioxide trapped by the trees?

Bigger is better. If trees reduce atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases by transforming the gases into living matter, it stands to reason that the bigger a tree is, the more carbon it is storing. In central California, a large evergreen oak will have sequestered nearly nine tons of carbon dioxide after 50 years, while a Bradford pear will sequester only about a quarter as much. To maximize carbon storage, plant as large a tree as possible.

Remember, though, that large trees require a lot of space both above and below ground to reach their full potential. The only thing that makes a bonsai tree so small is that its growing space has been artificially constricted. When selecting the species, match the tree's mature size to the space available, consider the soil volume necessary to achieve full growth, and note any overhead or underground obstacles, such as power lines, sidewalks, curbs, roads, and water pipes, that will

stunt tree growth or require pruning of branches and roots.

Longevity is important. The carbon dioxide that is stored in a tree only remains trapped as long as the tree is alive. Once the tree dies and begins to decompose, the greenhouse gases it has sequestered will return to the atmosphere.

Trees that live longer, therefore, do more to combat climate change

than shorter-lived trees. The evergreen oak mentioned above will not only have captured four times as much carbon dioxide after only 50 years, but because it will outlive the Bradford pear by decades or even centuries, its climate change benefit is even greater.

A tree's longevity isn't only dependent on the species, but also on the individual tree's health. Maximize tree health by selecting a species that is well-suited to the site, matching the species' water needs to the amount of water available, considering potential pests and diseases, and noting potential conflicts with infrastructure that will require substantial pruning of branches or roots that can

weaken the tree. Early care and proper pruning, especially in the first few years, are also important to ensure future health. Have your new tree inspected and, if necessary, pruned each year by a certified arborist for the first five years to set it on the right course for the future. Afterwards, inspection and pruning every 6 to 8

years will keep it healthy and strong.

Finding a long-term use for the wood of a dead or dying tree can extend the climate-change benefits it provides by slowing the decay process. Most urban wood is chipped for mulch or is sent directly to a landfill and decays within a few years. Some California cities like Sacramento and Lompoc, however, are recycling trees to create plaques, fences, benches, tables and other furniture, extending climate benefits by as much as 50 years.

Every tree planted works to sequester greenhouse gases, but some do more work than others.

THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

The existence of greenhouse gases (which include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and others) in the atmosphere is critical to life on Earth. These gases act as a sort of insulating blanket, trapping heat from the sun and keeping the Earth's average surface temperature a cozy 59°F. But it's not just the presence of greenhouse gases that is critical, it is also the amount.

Venus and Mars, both much like Earth (and, in astronomical terms, relatively the same distance from the sun), have wildly different temperatures because of the amount of greenhouse gases surrounding them. Venus has a very thick atmosphere composed almost entirely of carbon dioxide with average temperatures near 900°F, while Mars, which has a much thinner atmosphere, has an average temperature around 0°F—about what we would expect on Earth in the absence of greenhouse gases.

The levels of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere have been increasing steadily since the start of the Industrial Revolution; according to the most recent report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), carbon dioxide levels have risen by about 35 percent and methane levels by about 150 percent. At the same time, the global air temperature near the surface of the earth has risen about 1.3°F in the last century, and the IPCC's most recent report says that "most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations."

There is also a small but growing market for specialty wood products made from urban trees. For more information on reusing urban wood, see the Urban Forest Ecosystem Institute's Urban Wood Web page: <http://www.ufe.org/urbanwood/index.html>.

Maximizing Energy Conservation

Trees planted near buildings have a two-fold beneficial effect on our energy use: they lower temperatures by directly providing shade and they have a moderating influence on the overall urban climate when they transpire water. A recent study by NASA and Columbia University found that trees that shade paved or other manmade surfaces provide the "greatest cooling potential per unit area" for reducing the urban heat island effect.

Trees planted in the right places can have a significant impact on our energy consumption and a significant impact on the amount of carbon dioxide (and air pollutants like sulfur dioxide and ozone-forming compounds) that is released when energy is produced. At the same time, a poorly sited tree can have the opposite impact—increasing our heating use by blocking winter sun. How can we maximize energy conservation with trees?

West is best. Concentrate first on planting trees on the west and then on the east sides of buildings. This will provide cooling shade for walls and windows on the sides of the house that the sun warms most strongly. Avoid planting evergreen or solar-unfriendly

trees (those with dense branching patterns or that retain dead leaves in the winter) on the southern sides of houses as these will block the warming rays of the winter sun and increase energy use for heating.

A large mature evergreen tree on the west side of a house in the San Joaquin Valley can reduce energy consumption by up to 323 kWh and carbon dioxide production by up to 290 lbs annually! The same tree planted on the south side of the house will have a smaller cooling benefit (283 kWh) and will slightly increase energy use for winter heating (13.4 therms).

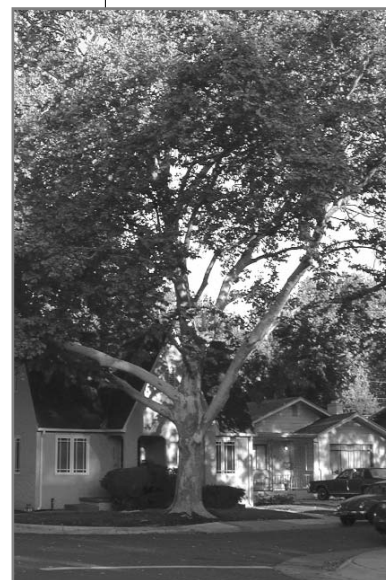
Size, type, and form. When choosing a tree, the most significant factor to consider for maximizing energy benefits is tree size. Big trees with large amounts of leaf surface area provide the most shade and the greatest climate moderation effects. Where aboveground space is limited, plant species such as elms, plane trees, oaks, and zelkovas that can be pruned to arch over homes as they grow or evergreen trees such as redwoods whose lower branches can be raised.

Drought-tolerant species also help reduce energy use by reducing the amount of water used. About one-fifth of California's electricity and one-third of our natural gas is used to move, clean, and distribute water, so the less

(continued on page 4)

Below: Large trees have been pruned to arch over a Sacramento home, providing abundant shade for energy conservation and many tons of sequestered carbon.

Photos both pages:
Center for Urban Forest
Research



Upper right: Volunteers from California ReLeaf Network group Goleta Valley Beautiful do their part to positively influence climate change by planting trees.

Photo: Goleta Valley Beautiful

Climate Change, continued from page 3

water we use, the less energy is wasted. This is especially true in southern California, where conveying water from its distant source to local treatment facilities requires about 60 times more energy than in northern California.

Energy Efficient Tree Maintenance

Once you have selected the most appropriate, biggest, longest-lived tree for your site, and have cared for it carefully, what more can you do? You can increase the climate-change benefits of the tree further by being mindful of the greenhouse gases produced during tree maintenance. Hire a landscape company or arborist who doesn't have far to travel, or organize their services with your neighbors to minimize trips to your neighborhood. Rake leaves instead of using a leaf blower and compost tree cuttings to create your own mulch on site.

Trees, of course, won't solve all of our climate change problems, but they are a step in the right direction that all of us can take. And remember that the tree you plant to help reduce global warming will also clean the air, filter stormwater, lower your energy bill, provide a habitat for local wildlife, and beautify your neighborhood—that's a claim no compact fluorescent light bulb can make! ■

Kelaine Vargas is an urban ecologist at the Center for Urban Forest Research in Davis, California.



Online Resources

- For more information on the benefits of trees and ways to maximize them, see the Center for Urban Forest Research's regional *Tree Guide* series, available at: www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/tree_guides.php.
- For help selecting the best tree for your site, see the Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute's (UFEI) tree selection guide at <http://selectree.calpoly.edu/>.
- For advice on tree planting, pruning, and care, see UFEI's Tree Standards and Specifications page at www.ufe.org/Standards&Specs.html and Dr. Ed Gilman's Landscape Plants page at <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/>.
- To calculate the carbon dioxide emission reductions due to a tree in California's Central Valley, visit the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Tree Benefits Estimator at <http://usage.smud.org/treebenefit/>.



Tree Advocate in Action:

Heather Fargo, Mayor of Sacramento

By Jane Braxton Little

Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo is addressing a group of downtown business leaders: "Plant a tree," she tells them. "Walk more. Switch to tap water. Unplug what you're not using."

Unorthodox advice from a mayor, it could hardly have come as a surprise to the 600 business owners attending her "State of the Downtown 2008" address in the California capital. Fargo, midway through her second term as mayor of Sacramento, has been preaching the environmental gospel her entire political career.

Facing a slew of urban dilemmas that include homelessness, police protection, downtown development, and a budget deficit, Fargo has maintained her commitment to making Sacramento one of the nation's greenest cities.

An Eye for Planning

Gritty, determined, and energetic, Fargo, 55, came to public service naturally. Born in Oakland and raised primarily in Stockton, she is the daughter of a professional city manager. After graduating from University of California, Davis, with a degree in environmental planning, she moved to South Natomas, a new Sacramento subdivision. Fargo sounded her first political fanfare as president of the South Natomas Community Association, suing the City of Sacramento and a dozen developers. The 1987 lawsuit claimed the city was breaking state environmental laws by turning the young residential area into a complex of offices and apartments. In a single-day trial, Fargo's association won.

Two years later, frustrated by the city council's continued disregard for what she considered good planning in Natomas, Fargo ran for Sacramento City Council and won. She has supported an environmental agenda for improving Sacramento ever since, campaigning for open space protections, a waterfront master plan and a sustainability master plan, which she launched as part of signing onto the United Nation's Urban Environmental Accords.

A National Profile

A founding member of the Sacramento Tree Foundation and its first secretary, Fargo has made the urban forest central to her 18-year political career. As mayor when the Tree Foundation released its *2000 State of the Trees Report*, she was instrumental in advancing the goal of managing the urban forest on a regional basis rather than through isolated political entities. Eight years later, 28 local governments in 6 counties are working together to double the region's tree canopy using a program called Greenprint.

Fargo introduced the program to the U.S. Conference of Mayors and its community trees taskforce, which she chairs. Other cities across the country are now using Greenprint's comprehensive princi-

ples for maximizing the benefits of shade trees to save energy, improve air quality, retain storm water runoff, and enhance community life.

Sacramento's Greenprint program has propelled Fargo to the national forefront of the urban forestry movement, says Tom McClimon, managing director of the U. S. Conference of Mayors. "She is recognized among her colleagues as the tree mayor," he says. "She's the go-to person on urban forests." Fargo's support through the



Conference of Mayors has helped promote urban forestry nationwide, says Alice Ewen Walker, executive director of Alliance for Community Trees.

Fargo remains modest and unassuming despite her national prominence. Her belief in the value of trees is rooted in her commitment to communities, says Ray Trethaway, a Sacramento city council-

man and executive director of the Sacramento Tree Foundation. "She gets the connection between trees and putting people at the forefront of urban forestry. She understands how planting and caring for trees can make a neighborhood stronger," he says.

During her seven years as mayor Fargo's environmental agenda has sometimes been denounced as too simplistic and lacking vision. With the city currently facing a \$55 million deficit, critics are calling for a tougher, more visionary program that demonstrates how environmental improvements can promote economic gains. Fargo reacts with the self-confidence of a pro: "I don't run for political office to join the club. I run to make government responsive."

That doesn't mean she doesn't get upset, says Trethaway. "She's always upset. Sometimes she wants to pull her hair out. Then she calms down and says, 'How do we fix it?'"

Fargo is running for a third term as mayor—so far she is unopposed.

Jane Braxton Little is a freelance journalist based in Plumas County, California.

Photo left, and photo opposite page: Mayor Heather Fargo helps kick off Sacramento's Arbor Day 2007 with inspiring words and hands-on action.

Photos: Sacramento Tree Foundation

California ReLeaf Network Member Profile: ORANGE FOR TREES

By Crystal Ross O'Hara

What began 13 years ago as a class project has become a thriving tree organization in the city of Orange.

In 1994, Dan Slater—who later that year was elected to the Orange city council—took part in a leadership class. For his class project he chose to focus on improving the condition of the city's declining street trees.

"At the time, the economy was bad and the city didn't have any money to plant trees that had died and needed to be replaced," Slater recalls.

Others joined Slater and the group, Orange for Trees, began to seek out funding and gather volunteers.

"Our focus was on residential streets that had few or no trees and we tried to get as many residents on board as possible to help plant and water them," he says.

Trees as Motivators

It wasn't long after Slater took office that the Orange City Council was faced with an issue that would highlight the deep emotional ties people have to trees.

Located about 30 miles southeast of Los Angeles, Orange is one of a handful of cities in Southern California built around a plaza. The plaza serves as a focal point for the city's unique historical district and is a great source of

pride for the community. In 1994 funds became available to upgrade the plaza. Developers wanted to remove the 16 existing Canary Island pines and replace them with Queen Palms, a Southern California icon.

"The pine trees were healthy and very picturesque and very tall," says Bea Herbst, a founding member of Orange for Trees and the current vice president of the organization. "One of the things about these pines is that they put up with very nasty soil. They are tough trees."

But the developers were adamant. They were concerned that the pines would interfere with their plans to include outdoor dining at the plaza.

The issue ended up before the city council. As Herbst recalls, "there were more than 300 people at the meeting and about 90 percent of them were pro-pine."

Slater, who is still active in Orange for Trees, said he initially supported the idea of Queen Palms in the plaza, but was eventually swayed by Herbst and others. "I think it was the only time on the city council that I changed my vote," he says.

The pines remained, and in the end, Slater says he's glad he changed his mind. In addition to providing beauty and shade for the plaza, the trees have been a financial boon to the city. With its historical buildings and homes, the attractive plaza and its proximity to Hollywood, Orange has served as the filming location for several television shows and movies, including *That Thing You Do* with Tom Hanks and *Crimson Tide* with Denzel Washington and Gene Hackman.

"It has a very small town flavor to it and because of the pines you don't necessarily



Orange for Trees' founding members (from left): Dan Slater, W. Catbcart, Bea Herbst, Dale Rhue, Jim Berry, Tim McCormick.



Members of Girl Scout Troop 688 help "green" Orange at a 2004 Arbor Day planting event.

think Southern California,” Herbst says.

The fight to save the plaza pines helped to galvanize support for preserving city trees and for Orange for Trees, Herbst and Slater say. The organization, which officially became a nonprofit in October 1995, now has about two dozen members and a five-member board.

Ongoing Efforts

Orange for Trees’ mission is to “plant, protect and preserve the trees of Orange, both public and private.” The group gathers volunteers for plantings from October to May. It averages about seven plantings per season, Herbst says. She estimates that in all Orange for Trees has planted about 1,200 trees in the past 13 years.

Orange for Trees also works with homeowners to educate them about the importance of trees and how to care for them. Herbst spent two years studying horticulture in junior college and will go out to homes to offer residents tree advice free of charge. The group also lobbies the city on behalf of residents for tree preservation and planting.

Slater says having support from the city and its residents is the key to the organization’s accomplishments.

“Part of the success comes from the buy-in from the residents,” he says. “We don’t plant trees where people don’t want them and won’t take care of them.”

Slater says plans for the future of Orange for Trees include improving the work the organization is already doing. “I’d like to see us become better at what we’re doing, grow our membership, and increase our funding and our effectiveness,” he says. And that’s sure to be good news for the trees of Orange. ■

Crystal Ross O’Hara is a freelance journalist based in Davis, California.



Member Snapshot

Orange for Trees

Year founded: 1994

Joined Network: 1995

Board Members: 5

Membership: ~25

Projects include:
Tree planting, resident education, advocacy.

Contact:

Bea Herbst, vice president
1435 East Walnut Ave.
Orange, CA 92667
(714) 997-5128



Left to right: Scenes from The Great Clean Air Tree Planting Project in La Habra, Live Oak Canyon, and Long Beach.

Photos: Nancy Hughes (left), Mary Mahoney (middle and right)

The Great Clean Air Tree Planting Project made history in Southern California on October 27 and December 1, 2007, when thousands of volunteers from across the region planted 5,000 trees at parks, schools, along sidewalks, medians, and in backyards as part of national “Make a Difference Day.” The project stretched across Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties, and is believed to be the largest volunteer tree planting undertaken in the state.

The effort was coordinated and managed by United Voices for Healthier Communities, a coalition of organizations led by the California Urban Forest Council, the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, and California ReLeaf. Funding for this historic effort was provided by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), and The Britton Fund.

Individuals, families, and organizations joined the effort, which is continuing to recruit new volunteers and add additional planting sites throughout 2008. Participants learn about long-term tree care as well as proper planting techniques, ensuring that the thousands of trees planted will reach maturity in good health.

The Great Clean Air Tree Planting Project will result in a massive reduction in carbon dioxide and pollutants. Already the trees planted in October and December are working to clean the air. When those trees mature, they will remove at least 840 tons of carbon dioxide and 24,160 pounds of pollutants out of our air every year for decades. As impressive as those numbers are, we expect them to grow substantially larger when individuals and families join the effort by planting trees—even one will make a difference—in their own yards.

For more information about United Voices, including how to get involved in 2008, please visit <http://www.unitedvoices.org/>. ■



Welcome Ashley!

In August 2007 California ReLeaf hired Ashley Mastin as our new Network Coordinator, over-seeing our vibrant and ever-growing California ReLeaf Network (now 90 members strong).

Ashley comes to us from the Girl Scouts, where she provided volunteer support, planned events, and worked with community partners. She has a background in parks management and environmental science. Ashley brings a winning combination of experience and people skills to the job and has jumped in with both feet, helping to grow our Network membership and to roll-out our new Mentoring program (see below).

She has also embarked upon a very exciting adventure of her own—in early January she and her husband Kevin became the proud parents of Eve Emily, now our youngest and cutest member of the ReLeaf family. Ashley is on maternity leave until April, at which point she will look forward to coming back to work—where she can finally get some peace and quiet!

Leadership from the Grassroots Up

In late 2006 California ReLeaf was awarded funding from the National Urban and Community Forest Advisory Council (NUCFAC) to institute a formal Mentoring Program, allowing us to launch two exciting new initiatives. The first is to facilitate in-depth, one-to-one peer mentoring between new organizations and more seasoned members of the California ReLeaf Network. The second initiative links Network

groups to each other on a program-specific basis, enabling groups to learn from their colleagues as they launch or explore new programs.

The mentoring program was formally launched at our annual business meeting in November 2007 with the debut of our *Mentoring Guide*, which explains the program and provides information on how to participate. We will work closely with three mentoring pairs throughout the course of the grant.

If you are interested in finding out more about this exciting program, would like a copy of our *Mentoring Guide*, or are interested in becoming a mentor, please call Executive Director Martha Ozonoff, (530) 757-7333.

2007 California Urban Forestry Awards

Congratulations to the three California ReLeaf Network groups that received awards at the 2007 California Urban Forest Conference in November in San Francisco:

Jim Williamson from the Tree Partners Foundation in Atwater won the Fred Anderson Award for Volunteerism; **TREE Davis** was honored for its outstanding Urban Forestry Program; and **TreePeople** was named Best Urban Forestry Program for its

partnership with the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department.

As a special one-time award, former California ReLeaf Network Coordinator and current board member (and tireless volunteer!) **Elisabeth Hoskins** was recognized for her outstanding con-

tributions to the Great Clean Air Tree Planting Project (see page 7 for related story).



California ReLeaf Board Member Elisabeth Hoskins is presented with an award from Andy Trotter, president of the California Urban Forest Council, in recognition of her work on the Great Clean Air Tree Planting Project.

Global ReLeaf Grants Available

Global ReLeaf, a program of American Forests, is offering annual grants towards tree planting projects. The program provides private dollars to support local reforestation efforts and help match other funding sources. Grants are available to support rural seedling projects restoring damaged forest ecosystems. The proposal deadline is July 1, 2008. For more information, including application forms and criteria, visit www.americanforests.org/global_releaf/grants/.



Network Members

Formed in 1991, the California ReLeaf Network is a statewide alliance of community-based organizations that share the common goals of planting and protecting trees, fostering an ethic of environmental stewardship, and promoting volunteer involvement.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Atherton Tree Committee
California Association of Local Conservation Corps
California Community Forests Foundation
California Oak Foundation
California Urban Forests Council
Canopy
CREEC
CityTrees
Fair Oaks Beautification Association
Friends of Carmel Forest
Friends of El Cerrito Trees
Friends of Rodeo, Refugio, and Carquinez Watersheds
Friends of the Urban Forest
Greater Modesto Tree Foundation
Keep Eureka Beautiful
Keep Oakland Beautiful
Magic
Marina Tree Committee
Marin ReLeaf
Mendocino County ReLeaf
Merced River Watershed Ecological Restoration Club
Mountain View Trees
National AIDS Memorial Grove
North Hills Landscape Committee
Oak Habitat Restoration Project
Our City Forest
Patricks Point Garden Club
Petaluma Tree Planters
Placer Tree Partners
Richmond ReLeaf
Roseville Urban Forest Foundation
Sacramento Tree Foundation

San Mateo Arboretum Society
San Mateo Park Association
South San Francisco Beautification Committee
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
Streaminders
TREE Davis
Tree Partners Foundation
Urban ReLeaf
Vacaville Tree Foundation
Vallelar Conservators
West Oakland Commerce Association
Woodland Tree Foundation

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Atascadero Native Tree Association
Carpinteria Beautiful
CSET
Goleta Valley Beautiful
Greenspace: The Cambria Land Trust
Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
Santa Barbara Beautiful
Santa Barbara County ReLeaf
Santa Margarita Community Forestry
Tree Foundation of Kern
Tree Fresno
Trees for Cayucos
Tree Guild of Arroyo Grande
Tule River Parkway Association
Urban Tree Foundation
Visalia Beautification Committee
WildPlaces

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Arroyo Seco Foundation
City Beautiful of San Diego
Community ReLeaf
Coronado Street Tree Committee
Fallbrook Land Conservancy
Highland Environmental Education Coalition
Hollywood/Los Angeles Beautification Team
Huntington Beach Tree Society
Ivey Ranch Park Association
Keep Downey Beautiful
Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful
Los Angeles Community Forest Advisory Committee
Mountains Restoration Trust
North East Trees
Orange County Conservation Corps
Orange for Trees
Pasadena Beautiful Foundation
Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego
ReLeaf Costa Mesa
San Bernardino Volunteer Yard Beautification Project
San Diego Community Forest Advisory Board
Seal Beach Tree Committee
ShadeTree Partnership
Street Tree Seminar, Inc.
Tree Musketeers
TreePeople
Trees for Seal Beach
Urban Corps of San Diego
Victoria Avenue Forever
West Hollywood Tree Preservation Society

If you would like to reach any of the groups listed, or if you are with a group that would like information on membership in the California ReLeaf Network, visit us online at www.californiareleaf.org, or contact Network Coordinator Ashley Mastin, (530) 757-7330, amastin@californiareleaf.org.

California ReLeaf Opens “Local Branch” at iTreeBank.org ~ Local Roots, Global Reach ~

DONATE NOW!



TREEBANK™
Investing in Urban Forests

The TreeBank is an online giving community comprised of organizations dedicated to engaging the public to care for our urban forests. Individual organizations join as local branches, providing members with an efficient online tool for accepting contributions at a local level, while helping the larger urban forest community on a national level.

To find out more about the program or to contribute to California ReLeaf, go to www.californiareleaf.org or visit the TreeBank at www.itreebank.org/itreebankdonate.php?org=careleaf.

Thank you for your support!

Urban Forestry Fares Well Despite Big Budget Cuts

Governor Schwarzenegger unveiled his proposed 2008-2009 State Budget in early January that seeks to address severe state deficits through a myriad of options including 10 percent cuts across the board in all state agencies. While many departments within the Resources Agency will be adversely affected by these proposed budget cuts, the two primary sources for urban forestry funding were not targeted for reductions or suspension.

For grants for purposes related to the Urban Forestry Act of 1978, the Governor's Budget proposes over \$7 million be allocated to CALFIRE from Propositions 40 and 84. Should the Legislature sustain these appropriations, the 2008-2009 State Budget will extend a significant winning streak for urban foresters and California ReLeaf Network members, who will have successfully advocated for over \$15 million in bond allocations during the last 5 years.

Another major victory for urban forestry and resource conservation is the Governor's inclusion of \$10 million for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP). This is the first time full funding has been proposed by the Administration since 2002, and a clear demonstration of the power of persuasion when the conservation community speaks with one voice.

Thanks to Governor Schwarzenegger for his strong support of urban forestry in his proposed State Budget.

Urban Forestry Act, Volunteerism Top Public Policy Priorities List in 2008

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Urban Forestry Act of 1978, California ReLeaf is sponsoring legislation that will provide a much-needed facelift for the state statute that is the primary governing vehicle for urban forestry activity in California.

AB 2045, authored by **Assembly Member Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate)**, will expand the scope of the program, speaking to the need to increase multi-benefit urban forestry projects that also address stormwater management, greenhouse gas emissions, and other resource-related impacts to urban areas. This is an ambitious bill that will require *California Trees* readers' support as California ReLeaf begins to move this measure forward.



Another priority for the urban forestry community this year will be extending or repealing the sunset provision of legislation passed in 2004 that exempts volunteers from existing prevailing wage law. Without this exemption, due to expire in January 2009, multiple urban forestry projects ranging from tree planting to median landscaping and restoration would be jeopardized through the lack of a volunteer-based work force.

Assembly Member Warren Furutani (D-Long Beach) has introduced AB 2537 to extend the sunset to 2012, while **Senator Roy Ashburn (R-Bakersfield)** has introduced SB 1345 to repeal the sunset completely.

Finally, California ReLeaf and other statewide urban forestry entities will work with **Senator Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento)** to move his Senate Bill 732 out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee later this year. SB 732 specifies various requirements for the expenditure of specific Proposition 84 funds by creating the Sustainable Communities Council to oversee distribution of urban greening and planning grants from the bond. The urban greening funds are especially important to urban forestry, as additional dollars for urban forestry (above and beyond the mandated \$20 million) would most likely come from this resource. As currently crafted, SB 732 would empower this Council to develop and implement a grant program for urban greening projects with eligible projects including urban forestry projects pursuant to the California Urban Forestry Act of 1978.

California ReLeaf Launches New Electronic Legislative News Service

In January, California ReLeaf launched a new "real time" email-based resource that will keep subscribers up-to-date on current state

Calendar of Urban Forestry Events

May 1 - 4, San Jose, CA

Western Chapter ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show: "Roots, Shoots and Research". Full conference flyer and registration information is available at www.wcisa.net or by calling (866) 785-8960.

May 28 - 30, Orlando, FL

American Forests Conference: "Nature and the Network: Building a new framework for people and nature to work together". Register online at www.americanforests.org.

May 30 & 31, Davis, CA

The California Center for Urban Horticulture presents "Global Climate Change and Your Backyard". For program information and to register, go to <http://ccuh.ucdavis.edu/events>.

August 1 - 2, Northern California,

August 8 - 9, Southern California

(locations tba)

California ReLeaf, the Alliance for Community Trees, and the National Arbor Day Foundation present the 2008 Community Tree Leadership Forum (see article, back page). For information, visit www.californiareleaf.org/network.

and national legislative issues. The emails are designed to keep interested parties current on important legislative issues that affect urban forestry in California. The updates are sent when we have important legislative news to report. Often, they will just be informational in nature, but at other times we will be asking for direct action—helping us to ensure that our collective voices are heard at the State Capitol and in Washington DC. The service is free; to join the list, send an email to mozonoff@californiareleaf.org with "subscribe to legislative updates" in the subject line.

For more information on these and other legislative issues, please contact Martha Ozonoff, executive director of California ReLeaf, at mozonoff@californiareleaf.org, (530) 757-7333.

Chuck Mills is associate director of the California Council of Land Trusts and the president of California ReLeaf's Board of Directors.

National Legislative Update

By Alice Ewen Walker

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

President Bush signed the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 on December 19, 2007, providing some unique opportunities for urban forestry advocates to explore new funding streams. The act includes a new block grant program for cities, providing \$2 billion a year for 5 years. The program would provide grants to cities, counties, and states for innovative practices to achieve greater energy efficiency and lower energy use. Like other block grants, funds would be distributed based on population, a good thing for most California communities.

As with other block grant programs, there will probably be a state-led or city-led process to prioritize the use of the funds, providing a fantastic opportunity for community tree advocates to talk to their local and state elected officials to help them understand how planting trees for energy conservation can be an integral part of the block grant program.

Urban & Community Forestry Takes Huge Hits in President's 2009 Budget

The President's budget was released on February 4, 2008. All of the Forest Services' State and Private Forestry programs experienced big cuts, with Urban and Community Forestry scheduled for an 82 percent reduction resulting in a \$5 million budget.

In the coming weeks, California ReLeaf will work with the Alliance for Community Trees and their partners in the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition to develop a response and recommendations for the FY 2009 budget. We will keep urban forestry advocates updated via California ReLeaf's new electronic legislative updates (see related story on page 10), so please be sure to sign up for this new service if you'd like to stay current on this and other legislative issues.

Alice Ewen Walker is the executive director of the Alliance for Community Trees, a national network of more than 130 nonprofit and community organizations dedicated to urban forest education and action.



About

California Trees

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Coming Your Way in August 2008!

Join California ReLeaf and co-hosts the Alliance for Community Trees and the National Arbor Day Foundation for the **2008**

Community Tree Leadership Forum, a two-day event designed for staff members and volunteers of nonprofit urban forestry organizations.

The objective of the Community Tree Leadership Forum is to increase the impact of nonprofit and community organizations working on urban forest issues by providing in-depth training to strengthen management and leadership skills within our sector.

We will hold two forums —one in Northern California, August 1 - 2, and one in Southern California, August 8 - 9. The program will be the same for each event and is designed to appeal to participants on a regional level.

Each Forum will provide a series of 3-hour, in-depth workshops on fundraising (both from individuals and through grants), legislative advocacy, and successful marketing. We are currently working on the final details, so please stay tuned to www.californiareleaf.org/network, as more information about location, registration, and lodging becomes available.




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