

California Trees

www.californiareleaf.org

Fall 2007
Volume 17, No. 1

Inside:

6

Network Profile:
San Mateo Park
Association

8

California ReLeaf
Network Corner

9

Moving On:
Elisabeth Hoskins

10

Legislative Update



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

Urban Tree Planting & Greenhouse Gas Reductions: Unraveling the Debate

By Greg McPherson, PhD

Editor's Note: This is the first in an occasional series on urban trees and climate change. Future articles will discuss community involvement in climate change and simple solutions that we can apply in our every day lives. We welcome your comments—let us know what you'd like to see in this series, as well as success stories and lessons learned from your community.

Several stories have appeared recently in popular news outlets suggesting that trees are not a solution in the fight against global warming. While these pop-media pieces represent the views of a few researchers, an overwhelming body of peer-reviewed research from forest scientists around the world points to the importance of forests in reducing carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, and slowing the build-up of that greenhouse gas.

The recent articles include a report from Reuters ("Trees take on greenhouse gases at Super Bowl", January 30, 2007), in which Dr. Ken Caldeira, a Carnegie Institute climate scientist, was reported to say, "It's probably a nice thing to do, but planting trees is not a quantitative solution to the real problem." Dr. Philip Duffy of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory said, "If you plant a tree [CO2 reductions are] only temporary for the life of the tree. If you don't emit in the first place, then that permanently reduces CO2." Dr. Caldeira had made similar arguments previously in an op-ed in the *New York Times* ("When Being Green Raises the Heat", January 16, 2007). A *New Scientist* article ("Location is key for trees to fight global

(continued on page 2)



Large flowering trees provide a cooling canopy for people, houses, and cars along this street in sunny Claremont.

Photo: Center for Urban Forest Research

Tree Advocate in Action:

Lois Wolk,
California State
Assemblymember

By Jane Braxton Little



On her first Arbor Day 2007, California Assemblywoman Lois Wolk planted trees in West Sacramento. The following Saturday she did it again in Davis in a ritual celebrated by elected officials across the country.

What distinguishes Wolk from run-of-the-mill photo-op politicians are her activities in between annual Arbor Days. "She's the real deal. She plants trees and doesn't vote against them later," says Yolo County Supervisor Helen Thompson, a former state assemblywoman.

Wolk, now in her third term representing the 8th Assembly District, has

(continued on page 5)



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.

CALIFORNIA RELEAF
P.O. Box 72496
Davis, CA 95617
(530) 757-7333
(530) 757-7328 fax
info@californiareleaf.org

STAFF:
Martha Ozonoff
Executive Director

Ashley Mastin
Network Coordinator

Joe Liszewski
Grant Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Chuck Mills
President

Gail Church
Treasurer

Nancy Hughes
Secretary

Elisabeth Hoskins

Rick Mathews

Amelia Oliver

Teresa Villegas

www.californiareleaf.org

Climate Change, continued from page 1

warming”, December 15, 2006) reports results from a study by ecologist Dr. Govindasamy Bala of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The model developed by Bala and colleagues indicates that, while trees planted in tropical regions have a clear net cooling effect, trees planted in mid-latitudes may absorb so much heat from the sun that they actually contribute to warming.

Because these reports fail to capture the complexity and the potential role that trees play in fighting global climate change, they have motivated rebuttals from the scientific community. I am writing this article largely to assure the public that trees do indeed reduce carbon dioxide in the air, thereby reducing the warming “greenhouse” effect of the gas, and to explain that urban trees in particular are valuable because they provide that benefit in more than one way.

Let Me Count the Ways...

First, as they grow, trees take carbon dioxide out of the air and transform it into roots, leaves, bark, flowers, and wood. Over the lifetime of a tree, several tons of carbon dioxide are taken up (McPherson and Simpson 1999). Second, by providing shade and transpiring water, trees lower air temperature and, therefore, cut energy use, which reduces the production of carbon dioxide at the power plant. Two-thirds of the electricity produced in the United States is created by burning a fuel (coal, oil, or natural gas) that produces carbon dioxide—on average, for every kilowatt hour of electricity created, about 1.39 pounds of carbon dioxide is released (eGRID 2002).

It is certainly true, as Dr. Duffy states, that not emitting carbon dioxide in the first place is a good strategy. Lowering summertime temperatures by planting trees in cities is one way to reduce energy use and thereby reduce carbon dioxide emissions. And planting trees is an immediate solution. Even if we were able to switch immediately to fuel sources that do not emit carbon dioxide, the levels in the air will remain high for decades or even centuries because of the long “lifetime” of carbon dioxide. Urban forestry doesn't require the development of new technologies or massive



investment in alternative energy sources. Planting a tree to shade a building is something all of us can do now.

Taking the Long View

To address the other claims made in the aforementioned articles: *Are carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas reductions from tree planting temporary?* In a sense, yes, greenhouse gas reductions are temporary if trees are removed and not replaced. To achieve long-term reductions, a population of trees must remain stable. This requires a diverse mix of species and ages so that the overall tree canopy cover remains intact, even as individual trees die and are replaced. Although sequestration rates will level off once an urban tree planting project reaches maturity, the reduced emissions due to energy savings will continue to accrue annually. Dead trees can be converted to wood products or used as bioenergy, further delaying, reducing, or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions.

Dr. Caldeira suggests in the Super Bowl article that tree planting projects are “risky.” They may appear more risky than reducing emissions by building solar or wind farms because the tree-related climate benefits are less easy to document and because the 50- to 200-year life span of a tree seems less permanent than a new power plant. This uncertainty can be offset by legally binding instruments such as contracts, ordinances, and easements that guarantee tree canopy in perpetuity. And,

Planting a tree to shade a building is something all of us can do now.



of course, trees and alternative energy sources are not mutually exclusive—both have a place in reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Reflecting on the Numbers

Will urban tree planting in mid-latitude cities result in zero or even negative climate benefits? Dr. Bala's study in the *New Scientist* article describes two main ways trees lower temperature: they remove carbon dioxide from the air, reducing the greenhouse effect, and they release water vapor, which increases cloudiness and helps cool the earth's surface. But, Dr. Bala asserts, because tree leaves are dark, they also absorb sunlight, which increases the temperature near the earth's surface. The difference between trees in tropical latitudes and those in mid-latitudes has to do with the difference in how much sunlight forests reflect compared to other possible surfaces, such as grass or crops. "Shiny" surfaces reflect more sunlight back into the atmosphere than forest vegetation, resulting in less heat trapped near the earth's surface. Large-scale tree planting projects that replace highly reflective surfaces with forests will result in more heat trapped near the ground during winter.

The startling conclusion that tree planting increases global warming by absorbing more heat, especially in temperate latitudes, is based on modeling of the reflectance (albedo) of forest canopies that are darker than snow, grass, or crops and absorb more heat. The models rely on various assumptions, such as wide scale afforestation, i.e., broad plantings of trees on grass and croplands. While more

precise measurements may be warranted, the necessary conclusion—the earth would be cooler if the forests were cut down—defies common sense and is neither realistic nor ecologically desirable.

In cities the climate effects of incremental darkening from increased tree canopy cover is even less relevant. Asphalt, concrete, and roof surfaces account for 50 to 70 percent of urban areas, with the remaining area covered by trees, grass, and bare soil. The difference in the albedos of the different urban surfaces is small. Vegetation canopies have albedos of 0.15 to 0.30, the albedo of asphalt is 0.10, that of concrete and buildings is 0.10 to 0.35, and the overall albedo in low-density residential areas is 0.20 (Taha et al. 1988). In cities, increasing urban tree canopy cover does not appreciably alter surface reflectance, or increase heat trapping.

At the same time, as described above, a number of field and modeling experiments have found that urban trees reduce summertime air temperatures through evapotranspiration and direct shading (Akbari and Taha 1992, Rosenfeld et al. 1998, McPherson and Simpson 2003). This reduces energy consumption and the emissions related to energy generation. Recognizing the climate benefits of trees, the California Climate Action Team Report (2006) recommended planting 5 million trees in cities to reduce 3.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. Our recent study found that by planting one million trees in Los Angeles, the Million Trees LA initiative will reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide by

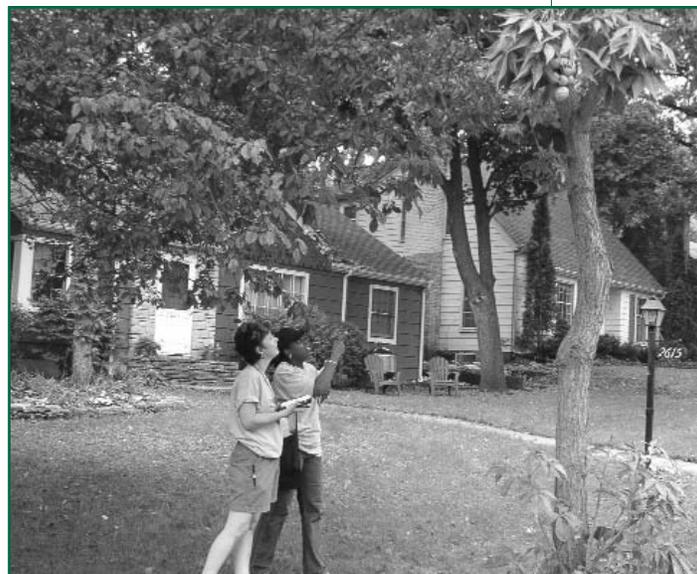
(continued on page 4)

Page 2, and top photo this page: TREE Davis volunteers help plant trees to cool and beautify their city.

Photos: TREE Davis

Bottom: Volunteers collecting data for an urban forest analysis study a tree crown to determine the tree's condition.

Photo: Center for Urban Forest Research



Climate Change, continued from page 3

about 1 million tons over the next 35 years, equivalent to taking 7,000 cars off the road each year (McPherson et al. 2007). Since 1990, Trees Forever, an Iowa-based nonprofit organization, has planted trees for energy savings and atmospheric carbon dioxide reduction with utility sponsorships (McPherson et al. 2006). Over one million trees have been planted in 400 communities with the help of 120,000 volunteers. These trees are estimated to offset carbon dioxide emissions by 50,000 tons annually.

One Solution Among Many

Do tree planting projects give people a “feel-good” illusion that they are slowing global warming? The climate benefits of trees in mid-latitude cities are not an illusion, although they cer-

tainly feel good. Reductions in atmospheric carbon dioxide are achieved directly through sequestration and indirectly through emission reductions. Still, planting trees in cities should not be touted as a panacea to global warming. It is one of many complementary bridging strategies, and it is one that can be implemented immediately. Moreover, tree planting projects provide a myriad of other social, environmental, and economic benefits that make communities better places to live. Of course, putting the right tree in the right place remains critical to optimizing these benefits and minimizing conflicts with other aspects of the urban infrastructure.

The solutions to the problem of climate change are as complicated as the mechanisms of global warming itself. It is far too early and we have too little information to have decided to only invest in strategies that reduce fossil fuel emissions. Certainly we must transform the way we produce and consume energy. Doing so will require the brightest minds of science, the staunchest will of politicians, and a great deal of time, effort, and money. In the meantime, we can all plant a tree. ■

Dr. Greg McPherson is director of the USDA Forest Service’s Center for Urban Forest Research in Davis, California.

Photo: Center for Urban Forest Research



Trees shade vehicles in the Sacramento Municipal Utility District parking lot. By lowering air temperatures, trees in parking lots can substantially reduce air pollutant emissions.

Partners in Community Forestry Conference

November 13-16, 2007 • Baltimore, Maryland

The National Arbor Day Foundation and The Home Depot Foundation are teaming up to present “Partners in Community Forestry”, a national conference designed to bring together a broad-based group of interested professionals to look at ways we can work in partnership to promote our community forestry goals.

All sessions will take place at the historic downtown Radisson Lord Baltimore near the Inner Harbor—an urban revitalization phenomenon and symbol of the city’s rebirth. Baltimore is a vital city with ambitious goals for doubling urban tree canopy through public and private cooperation.

The Alliance for Community Trees (ACT) is holding its Annual Meeting and NeighborWoods Academy as a pre-conference event on November 13. The agenda features research about trees as a tool for community revitalization, nonprofit executive networking, grassroots program models, and NeighborWoods tools for community organizing. Registration includes a ticket for the 2007 NeighborWoods Luncheon, sponsored by The Home Depot Foundation in recognition of the 2007 NeighborWoods grant partners.

For more information about both events, including a full program and registration details, please see: www.arboday.org/shopping/conferences/brochures/pcf/2007/index.cfm

Tree Advocate, continued from page 1

been committed to urban forests throughout her 17-year political career. As she worked her way up the ranks from Davis City Council to Yolo County Board of Supervisors to California State Assembly, Wolk has consistently focused on the causes most closely associated with communities: education, health care, and the environment.

"She's got both feet solidly on the ground. And yet, she wanted to go into politics. Go figure!" says Ray Tretheway, executive director of the Sacramento Tree Foundation and a Sacramento city councilman since 2001.

Laying the Groundwork

Wolk was a member of the Davis City Council in 1992 when she suggested forming a non-profit organization to work with the city's tree program. The result is TREE Davis. It started with "a lot of blowing on coals," says co-founder Bob Cordrey, who was then the city's tree supervisor. He credits the group's eventual success to Wolk's "inexhaustible energy" and the wry wit she brings to every project. "Lois was the first person to tell me 'no good deed goes unpunished'," he says.

Wolk shared the lessons Davis learned with neighboring communities. During two terms as mayor, she hosted several brown-bag lunches that contributed to the formation of the Woodland Tree Foundation.

As a Yolo County supervisor she expanded the scope of her urban forest advocacy. Wolk led the effort to coordinate a county tree plan with a regional forest master plan that uses trees to conserve energy and improve air quality. "Lois did great work to get the county thinking about trees," says Helen Thompson, Wolk's immediate predecessor as 8th District assemblywoman.

Environmental Priorities

During her five years in the state Assembly, Wolk has consistently put the environment ahead of powerful special interests. The legislature adopted bills she coauthored to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions and encourage building homes with solar panels. Wolk is known as a thoughtful, strategic politician who sets goals, "gathers as many people in support as she can and mows down the opposition," says Thompson.

Soon after Hurricane Katrina swamped

New Orleans, Wolk introduced state legislation to discourage development in parts of California's Central Valley that lack adequate flood protection. Undeterred by fierce opposition from the building industry, which successfully killed the bill last year, she came back with Assembly Bill 5. It would reward cities and counties that upgrade levees and ensure adequate emergency responses with priority status for flood-control bond funding.

Wolk was part of a coalition working to include Cache Creek in a federal wilderness bill. When its sponsors dropped the Yolo County stream from the legislation, Wolk maintained her commitment to her constituents and opposed proponents of dam building. Legislation approved in 2005 protects 31 miles of Cache Creek as a California Wild and Scenic River.

"Lois hung tough," says Steve Evans, conservation director for Friends of the River. "Although she's always working for consensus, when it blows up on her she's willing to vote against end-of-the-world arguments."

A Supporter on Many Levels

And she's not above lending her support to save a single tree. In 1999, TREE Davis was concerned about a beautiful red oak tree along Interstate 80 as you approach the city.

Caltrans officials were preparing to take it out. "I made one phone call to her office," says Martha Ozonoff, who at the time was executive director of TREE Davis and is now director of California ReLeaf. "That was it. The tree's still there."

For Ruth Williams, current executive director of TREE Davis, Wolk has always been a part of the region's urban forest scene. "You look at the old photos and there she is, planting trees and getting dirty with everyone else," says Williams.

With term limits forcing her out of her Assembly office in 2008, Wolk is considering a run for the state senate. During her journey from local to county and state government she has earned a reputation for wisdom and integrity.

"She could run for governor," says Cordrey, "and I hope she will." ■

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



Above: Lois Wolk (with microphone) joins members of the Davis Tree Commission and the Davis City Council on Arbor Day to talk about the benefits of urban trees.

Photo: TREE Davis



Above: Assemblymember Wolk presents West Sacramento City Manager Toby Ross with an Arbor Day proclamation.

Photo: Tracy Thomas

Below: Assemblymember Wolk digs in at a tree planting with city staff and city councilmembers.

Photo: TREE Davis



California ReLeaf Network Member Profile: San Mateo Park Association

By Crystal Ross O'Hara

The work of legendary landscape architect John McLaren—designer of Golden Gate Park—lives on in San Mateo, where a group of homeowners continues his vision of a neighborhood of winding streets, landscaped islands and tall trees.

Founded in 1896, San Mateo Park was designed to be impressive. Located about 20 miles south of San Francisco, it is home to multi-million dollar houses. But it's the trees, many residents say, that make their neighborhood special.

"Most people say they bought their houses in the park because they like the trees," says Sue Lloyd, a San Mateo Park Association board member.

McLaren chose a varied but limited number of species for San Mateo Park. Coast live oaks, Monterey pines, acacias and cork oaks are some examples of the types of trees he favored.

But in the mid-1990s—a hundred years after McLaren laid out his plan—some of the trees were looking, as Lloyd puts it, "a little sad." At the same time, the City of San Mateo Parks Department was suffering a decline in funding and was forced to cut services. Several residents joined together to see what they could do to save their neighborhood trees.

A Reforestation Plan

Members of the homeowners association started out by surveying residents of the neighborhood about how they felt about the trees in the park.

Residents voiced overwhelming support for maintaining McLaren's idea of using a relatively small number of species of primarily tall trees, says San Mateo Park Association Board Member Linda Bogue. The residents said they appreciated the park's original layout of groups of similar islands and street trees in neighborhood areas within the larger neighborhood. "There's a uniformity to it and it's very attractive," Bogue says.

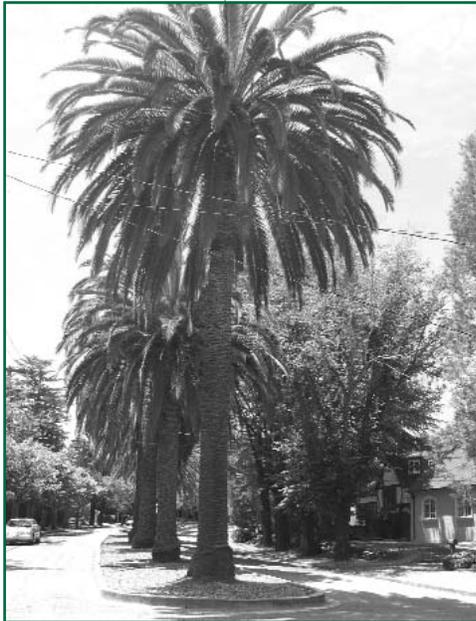
The organization also gathered about \$10,000 in donations from residents to hire a group of registered professional foresters to develop a master plan for the park. The goal was to replace dying trees with either species that were part of McLaren's original design or a suitable replacement, as well as to maintain those trees that were still viable.

A Volunteer Effort

Revitalizing and maintaining the park's 64 landscaped islands is no small task. The plan works, residents say, because of the dedicated volunteers who are willing to not only finance the park's reforestation plan, but also to get their hands dirty.

Each island has a "captain" whose job is to oversee the planting they've adopted, alerting the homeowners association to any work that needs to be done by the city parks department. The association goes through the work orders and then forwards them to the city. Island captains also coordinate with their neighbors to make sure their island is clean and that the trees are healthy and well-maintained.

There are more than 700 households in the park, but dues to the association are voluntary. Nevertheless, the association has been successful in raising the money required to replant and maintain trees in the park. Bogue says last year 55 households paid dues at the "McLaren Level"—\$100 or more—and 84 additional households gave money to the association.





San Mateo Park Association

Year founded: 1941

Joined Network: 1996

Board Members: 9

Membership: 740

Projects include:
Tree planting and maintenance,
renovation of street islands,
homeowner education.

Contact:

Sue Lloyd, Board Member

P.O. Box 1271

San Mateo, CA 94401

(650) 347-6871

lloyd94402@sbcglobal.net

www.sanmateopark.org

Education is another component of the association’s plan. New residents need to be informed of the overall goal for the trees and particularly, the emphasis on planting trees that conform to the master plan.

Occasionally, Bogue and Lloyd say, homeowners balk at being told what type of trees the association would prefer them to plant. But for the most part, they note, residents are supportive once they learn the history of the park and the effort to preserve that history. “When people get it, they completely get on board,” Bogue says.

Realizing the Dream

In the past few years, the association has renovated 49 of the 64 islands, spending about \$30,000 in the process, Bogue says.

The range of work includes removing debris and deadwood, planting, trenching, trimming and more. Neighborhood volunteers do much of the work, although some neighbors have hired gardeners or donated money for the association to hire gardeners.

Neighbors have also gotten their hands dirty planting more than 300 trees purchased with grants provided by California ReLeaf. Since 2000, the San Mateo Park Association has received a total of \$7,835 from California ReLeaf. The result, residents say, is a revitalized neighborhood with healthy, well-cared for trees that adhere to McLaren’s original design.

City Support

The City of San Mateo Parks Department is key in the organization’s success, residents say. “It’s been such a good partnership,” Bogue says. “If the willingness and the effort weren’t there on both sides, we wouldn’t be able to do this.”

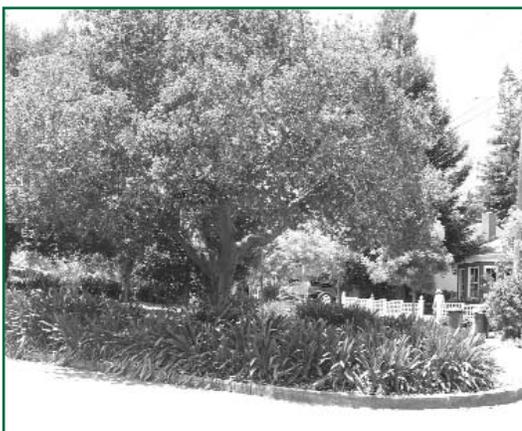
When it comes to major tree work, the association needs professional help. But knowing how strapped the city is for time and resources, members of the group solicit for project bids themselves and then turn the bids over to the parks department for final approval. Once the project begins, homeowners association members join with city employees to closely monitor the progress.

Dennis Pawl, the city’s park and landscape maintenance manager, says the city’s budget allows for only the most necessary work, such as trees that pose a hazard to people or property. Having the association do much of the work up front makes it possible for the department to do more for San Mateo Park, he says.

“We work with a lot of homeowners associations, but this is probably the one that has the most resources and advocates to get things done,” Pawl says.

That winning combination should ensure that McLaren’s vision—and the trees that are so integral to it—remain healthy and thriving in San Mateo Park. ■

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



Photos both pages: Palms, pines, and oaks are among the varied palette of species McLaren chose for the distinctive landscaped islands of San Mateo Park.

Photos:
Crystal Ross O’Hara



California ReLeaf is pleased to welcome five new members to its growing network of community-based urban forestry groups!



primarily ages 18-25, develop life and job skills through a program of conservation work, education, and community service. To date, over 40,000 young people have participated in conservation corps programs to recycle millions of bottles and cans, plant thousands of trees, and remove many acres of non-native plant species. www.calcc.org

The **Orange County Conservation Corps** (OCCC), based in Anaheim, was founded in 1993 to provide opportunities for youth and young adults to learn work skills, further their education, and develop leadership skills and a sense of community responsibility. As a nonprofit organization, OCCC is an affiliate of the California Association of Local Conservation Corps. The Corps' community work projects include maintaining and improving local parks, beaches, rivers, recreational trails, and city and county facilities. The organization also participates in public education events focused on recycling and protecting land and water resources. www.occorgs.org



The **California Association of Local Conservation Corps** was established in 1993 to enable California's local conservation corps to collaborate through education and advocacy, and to provide a forum to advance the conservation corps movement in California and nationally. The 12 Local Conservation Corps that are members of CALCC are individual, local, nonprofit organizations that help young women and men,



The **San Bernardino Volunteer Yard Beautification Project** has been sharing knowledge and resources in the community since 1991. Community members are trained in successful tree planting and care techniques and in exchange, the group offers plants, seeds, and cuttings free of charge. The group's goals include educating neighbors and the community, sharing knowledge, talents, and materials freely, and elevating environmental awareness within San Bernardino.

TheAtanasovas@msn.com

Street Tree Seminar, Inc. has been promoting the advancement of urban forestry and providing a forum for tree care professionals to share experiences, knowledge, and expertise since 1956. This Anaheim-based group has published *Street Trees Recommended for Southern California*, a widely used resource for identification and proper site/plant planning. It also extends annual scholarships to students attending horticultural or arboricultural based programs at local colleges and universities.

www.streettreeseминаr.com



Founded in 2001, the **West Oakland Commerce Association** is active in tree planting, park development, and beautification efforts in West Oakland. The association has been working with the City of Oakland, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, community groups, and volunteers in developing and implementing the Raimondi Park project. The group hopes to increase its fundraising efforts in order to expand its tree-planting program and recruit and train new volunteer leaders. Another goal is to facilitate more partnerships between the city and local tree-planting volunteers to further community beautification. www.treesforwestoakland.com

*Clockwise, top to bottom:
A local Corps member gains valuable experience monitoring water samples.*

CALCC members sort bottles and cans at a local recycling center.

OCCC members pause to take a well-deserved break.

Street Tree Seminar "volunteer extraordinaire" Al Remyn hams it up for the camera.

Photos: Provided by respective groups.



FAREWELL TO ELISABETH! The California ReLeaf staff and board of directors bid a fond farewell to one of our own this past spring.

Elisabeth Hoskins, who joined California ReLeaf in 1997 as our grant coordinator, retired in April to travel and enjoy time with her grandkids. Elisabeth spent seven of her ten years with ReLeaf as the grant coordinator, overseeing all aspects of ReLeaf's state and privately funded grant programs. During her tenure, thousands of volunteers helped plant and care for close to 100,000 trees.

In 2003 Elisabeth took a new position as network coordinator, managing membership and communication with the California ReLeaf Network, an alliance of community-based tree planting and stewardship groups. During Elisabeth's time as coordinator, the Network grew from 66 to 87 groups, adding countless volunteers and advocates to California's urban forest community.

Elisabeth has worked tirelessly on behalf of trees for the past decade, and is continuing to volunteer her time and expertise on a number of projects, including serving as one of the newest members of the California ReLeaf Board of Directors. Her friends and colleagues will miss working with her day-to-day, but we wish her all the best in retirement—and we look forward to hearing about her travels!



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
Vallemar 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.

Several ReLeaf Priorities Survive Big Budget Cuts

Governor Schwarzenegger signed the 2007-2008 Budget Act on August 24. It contains up to \$17 million for urban forestry programs. Specifically, this Budget allocates \$2.8 million from Proposition 84 and \$2.8 million from Proposition 40 for any purpose captured under the California Urban Forestry Act of 1978, including maintenance, preventative care, and other critical urban forestry projects.

In addition, the final allocation from Proposition 12 is included in this year's budget, providing \$1.7 million for tree planting projects. Although Proposition 12 funds will be depleted after this year, an additional \$3 million remains in Proposition 40 and at least \$15 million remains in Proposition 84 for urban forestry purposes over the next several years.

Finally, full funding for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program was included at \$10 million. This is the second consecutive year that Governor Schwarzenegger has upheld the Legislature's action to restore full funding for this critical competitive grants program that provides significant opportunities for urban forestry projects.

Special thanks go to **Senators Mike Machado (D-Linden)** and **Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego)**, and **Assembly Members Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles)**, **Lois Wolk (D-Davis)**, **Laura Richardson (D-Long Beach)** and **John Benoit (R-Palm Desert)** for their support of this important program.

Overall, the 2007-2008 Budget meets several immediate resource conservation priorities by providing dollars for capital outlay, along with significant investments in flood control and water conservation.

Thanks to all of our California ReLeaf partners whose hard work over the past several months ensured increased urban forestry funding for this year and next.

Urban Forestry Could Benefit from Proposed Bond Implementation Bill

Several bills seeking to regulate expenditures from all of the bonds passed by the voters in 2006 were introduced early in the legislative session, including bills by **Assembly Speaker Nuñez** and **Assembly Member Hancock** that could have provided more urban forestry opportunities. While many of these efforts



stalled out in the Legislature, much of the spirit and content of this legislation has been incorporated into Senate Bill 732 by **Senator Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento)**.

SB 732 specifies various requirements for the expenditure of Proposition 84 funds for nature education and research facilities and for local parks. The bill also creates the Sustainable Communities Council to oversee distribution of local parks funding from Proposition 1c and urban greening and planning grants from Proposition 84. 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 the Council to develop and implement a grant program for urban greening projects with eligible projects including urban forestry activities.

SB 732 is currently being held in suspense at the Assembly Appropriations Committee. California ReLeaf has taken a support position on this bill.

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.

Register Today!
California Urban Forest Conference
November 1-3, 2007 • San Francisco
See the back page for details.

National Legislative Update

By Alice Ewen Walker

Urban & Community Forest Budget

In late June, the House of Representatives passed Interior and Environment Appropriations for fiscal year 2008 that would restore funding to a wide array of conservation and environmental protection programs. The House provided \$355 million above the President's budget request to the U.S. Forest Service, including a small budget increase for the Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF), which would result in a \$31,130,000 national budget for U&CF. The Assembly budget also included two urban forestry earmarks: \$700,000 for projects in El Segundo, CA and Seattle, WA.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved a similar figure for U&CF, though the full Senate has not yet voted. The Senate Appropriations Committee reported \$30,846,000 for U&CF, inclusive of \$550,000 in earmarks for reforestation programs in Chicago and Indianapolis.

U&CF advocates nationwide made their voices heard this year, and we encourage advocates to continue to communicate the value of urban forestry to their elected officials. Over 170 state and local groups joined in the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition request supported by Alliance for Community Trees, International Society of Arboriculture, American Public Works Association, and many other national organizations. We heard positive confirmation from Hill staff that the message reached its target. See the FY 2008 coalition statement located at: http://actrees.org/files/Policy_Alerts/2008_S_UFC_RECS.pdf

President Bush has threatened to veto the 2008 appropriations for Interior, Environment and the U.S. Forest Service because the bill came in \$2 billion over the President's request. If the bill is vetoed or delayed, the agency will continue to operate under a continuing resolution. The outlook for the President's FY 2009 budget for the Forest Service is especially grim. It is expected that sharp cuts to State and Private Forestry Programs will be issued across the board next February by the agency. The U&CF program

budget is quite vulnerable and may be zeroed out in the agency's FY 2009 budget. Urban forestry advocates should prepare for a robust push to restore funding next year, as was required this year.

Federal Energy Bill

This summer, with support from California's community forestry advocates, freshman Congresswoman Doris Matsui drafted legislation that would encourage utility companies to partner with communities to plant trees for energy conservation. Many had hoped that the resulting *Energy Efficiency Through Trees* act would be attached to the energy bill passed in August, but unfortunately this provision wasn't included in the final language. Congresswoman Matsui is actively exploring other means of enacting the legislation, which seeks to replicate the successful energy partnership developed by Sacramento Municipal Utility District and the Sacramento Tree Foundation. When the next opportunity arises, we will alert California ReLeaf Network members for how they can help support its passage.

The far-reaching energy bill passed in the House in early August did include a section that relates to carbon sequestration, forestry, and urban forests. The "Federal Government Inventory and Management of Greenhouse Gas Emissions" legislation:

- Orders the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service to record the net biological sequestration or emission of greenhouse gases related to human activities and associated with land managed by the BLM or the Forest Service.
- Orders the Forest Service, BLM, National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct studies and identify management strategies to enhance biological sequestration and reduce the negative impacts of global warming on biodiversity, water supplies, forest health, biological sequestration and storage, and related values.
- Orders the Forest Service to conduct a study of the opportunities of urban and wildland-urban interface forestry programs to enhance net biological sequestration of greenhouse gases and achieve other benefits.

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

Ongoing Funding—How You Can Help

The Alliance for Community Trees is optimistic that by working together, urban and community forestry proponents can restore funding for existing programs, such as those in the Forest Service, and seek out new opportunities presented by the nation's renewed interest in climate change, energy conservation, and urban revitalization.

Please consider taking the time to visit with the local district office of your Congressional or Senate members. Brief them now about the value of urban forests so that when you come back during budget season, they will know who you are and be more inclined to give the matter consideration.

California is an especially powerful advocate because so many excellent models have already been piloted within the state budget. Imagine if they could be replicated nationwide!



About

California Trees

Published by California ReLeaf. Funding for *California Trees* is provided in part by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the National Urban and Community Forestry Program of the USDA Forest Service. Subscriptions are free.

Reproducing and distributing material from this newsletter is encouraged, provided credit is given to the author and *California Trees*.

Send comments, submissions, and subscription requests to:

California ReLeaf
Attn: Editor
P.O. Box 72496
Davis, CA 95617
caltrees@californiareleaf.org

Edits & Layout: Stephanie Funk

2007 California Urban Forest Conference

November 1-3 • San Francisco

California ReLeaf and the California Urban Forests Council are pleased to announce the 2007 California Urban Forest Conference, **“The Professions, Cultures, and Communities that Shape our Urban Forests”**, taking place November 1 - 3, 2007, at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco.

We have a great program lined up, including hands-on workshops and tours of San Francisco and Oakland's urban forestry programs. Please join us for informative and enlightening plenary sessions, peer presentations, industry updates, and networking opportunities. Continuing Education Credits will be offered. Program highlights include:

- Welcome: San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom
- Keynote Address: Community Livability and Public Health, Dr. Richard Jackson, UC Berkeley School of Public Health
- Million Tree LA Initiative: Los Angeles Chief Forester, George Gonzales
- The California Climate Action Registry Greenhouse Gas Accounting Protocols for Urban Forestry: Michelle Passero, Pacific Forest Trust
- Sessions on Urban Greening Planning and Projects, Streets, Soils, Environmental Justice, Community Organizing, and much more.

The San Francisco Bay Area has ample site-seeing and entertainment possibilities, so come early, bring the family, and turn it into a vacation!

For a full program, lodging and travel information, and to register, visit us online at: http://www.caufc.org/Conference_Program_2007/conference-Fall2007.html



California ReLeaf
P.O. Box 72496
Davis, CA 95617

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage **PAID**
Santa Barbara, CA
Permit No. 553

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.californiareleaf.org

 Printed on 100% recycled paper, using all post-consumer waste and non-deinked pulp. You can help us prevent waste by passing this publication on to a friend, recycling it when you're through, or letting us know if you would rather not receive it. Thank you for your commitment to the environment.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.