



The Voice of our City Forest

Fall 2010

Inventory Intern Spotlight



Inventory Interns Tim Siemon, Celia Boyle and Roger King

At the core of Our City Forest's values is a belief that volunteers with the proper training and support can accomplish anything. And this summer, a group of dedicated community members proved us right once again.

Many thanks to Celia Boyle, Nima Khalily, Roger King, Tim Siemon and Lisa Kathleen Templeton who generously dedicated more than 120 hours of their time to assist Our City Forest with a street tree inventory project in San José. Thanks also to Nancy

Ramie, our Inventory Field Manager, who worked diligently to support the interns' fieldwork. This large-scale data collection was initiated in 2009 with help from OCF's AmeriCorps service members and continued by 5 volunteer interns through the summer of 2010.

As a part of their internship, these volunteers completed over 40 hours of arboricultural training including tree species identification, biometric data collection and instruction on the use of handheld GPS units.

Working in teams of two, they collected vital information about San José's street trees, including the trees' species, height, diameter, canopy spread and size of the park strip. When they came across trees planted by OCF, additional data was gathered to ensure the trees were being properly maintained. The interns also collected addresses of potential, new planting locations that will allow for targeted outreach in neighborhoods without trees.

Through a collaborative effort between the City of San José and OCF, data has been collected on nearly 50% of San José's street

trees. This is an important step towards developing a management plan for our urban forest and quantifying the benefits provided to city residents.

Reflecting on her experience, Celia Boyle said, "Looking at what we were able to accomplish, I only hope we can serve as a model for other volunteer programs." Tim is amused to find himself "identifying trees all the time now – even on TV shows." And Roger has gained an even more practical reason to take note of the trees in our city, saying "I really started to appreciate them when we were out on those 100 degree days. Standing in the shade of a sycamore was at least 20 degrees cooler".

Thanks to the entire inventory team for their significant contribution. Special thanks to OCF's Gil Bashan, who provided technical support and expertise to ensure the data was collected and maintained to the highest standard.

"It is by spending oneself that one becomes rich." –Sarah Bernhardt

The New Tree Bank

Development of the Our City Forest's (OCF) Community Tree Bank and Training Center at the Guadalupe River Park is well under way. A grant from Cal Fire coupled with a property-use agreement from the City of San José allowed OCF to start construction in early spring.

After a lengthy permit application process, construction began in August with the installation of base rock paving and an 8-foot security fence. Immediately afterward, a team of Our City Forest staff and AmeriCorps members began assembling the nursery's greenhouse, which was custom-designed for the site.

In the meantime, construction of cultivation rows and a large-scale irrigation system has begun. To conserve water and reduce any impact on the local environment, OCF will collaborate with South Bay Water Recycling to utilize reclaimed water for nursery irrigation.

Our City Forest plans to complete this project by Summer 2011. The facility will have the

capacity to annually cultivate 5,000 trees, in addition it will make available more native trees and increase the diversity of tree species commonly planted in San José by over 30%. The Training Center will provide a base for teaching residents, landscape professionals and local agency staff about tree maintenance. We are excited about the development of this community resource and look forward to hosting a grand opening ceremony in 2011.

Special thanks to MV Fence, South Bay Water Recycling and the following City of San José departments: Mayor's Office, Dept. of Aviation, Public Works, Transportation, and Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services for their ongoing assistance with this project.



AmeriCorps members Michael Layman and Galen Wiese begin installation.





FLASHBACK: 1994

It's **1994** and the little green start-up that could, **Our City Forest (OCF)**, is officially incorporated as a nonprofit.

OCF is busy greening south San José with a State tree planting grant it obtained to help mitigate the impacts to neighborhoods from Highway 85 construction. OCF mobilizes thousands of volunteers to plant and adopt 5,000 free shade trees in San José's streets, schools and parks.

The **San José Sharks** and **Toronto Maple Leafs** reach the Stanley Cup playoff semi-finals. Caught up in the excitement, OCF coordinates an inter-city tree planting with a Toronto tree group. **Sharkie**, the mascot, joins **Schallenberger Elementary** students to plant a suitable maple, while back in Toronto, an oak is being planted. Schallenberger students, dressed in teal and black, also learn how maple syrup is made! In spite of the rain, a dozen news reporters from San José to San Francisco make their way to the event and jockey for position for a "live at noon" clip with Sharkie. It's a winner!



Sharkie, the mascot gets interviewed wearing with his OCF hat.



Tree Amigo Ted Cunningham plants a sycamore with volunteers at a light rail station along Highway 85.



Schallenberger students catch Stanley Cup fever.

AmeriCorps Team At Work In Your Neighborhood!



This September, Our City Forest welcomed its largest AmeriCorps service team to date. Nearly double the size of previous classes, this group of forty dedicated individuals will spend the next 10 months working with OCF to coordinate planting events, provide tree care, recruit and place volunteers and educate residents of all ages about the importance of our urban forest. OCF was awarded this expanded AmeriCorps grant as a result of previous success, highlighted by

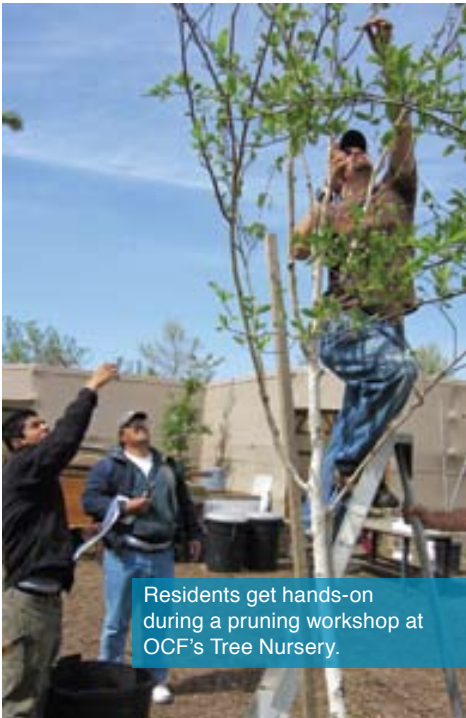
a remarkable member retention rate of 100% over the past two years.

This diverse group includes members of all ages – from 18 to “no comment” – and all backgrounds. Their college degrees include everything from Environmental Biology and Geography to Graphics & Design and Psychology. While some relocated from as far away as New York and Florida, many others are natives of the South Bay looking to give back to their local community. The common denominator of these members is a deep commitment to service.

So, when you see them in your neighborhood, at a local school or in a nearby park, don't be shy! Introduce yourself and thank them for choosing to bring their enthusiasm and passion to San José.



Greening San José!



Residents get hands-on during a pruning workshop at OCF's Tree Nursery.



West San José Kiwanis volunteer Doug Greer prepares to water newly-planted trees at Ryan Elementary.



San José City Councilmember Rose Herrera joins our mascot "O2" at Day in the Park.



Rose, White and Blue Parade on July 4th, 2010



Installing wooden stakes is a group effort at Houge Park.



Hoover Middle School students pose proudly alongside Tree Amigo Louie Urbina after a successful tree planting at their school.

OCF Calendar of Events

October

- 20 Presentation for San José West Kiwanis Club
- 20 Santa Clara University Sustainability Day Tabling
- 21 Presentation En Español at Eastside Neighborhood Center
- 22 Safe and Green Halloween Tabling En Español
- 22 Tree Bank Work Day
- 23 Bellevue Park Planting
- 23 Biblioteca Planting
- 23 Neighborhood Planting & Demo – 95132
- 23 Green Living Workshop at Willow Glen Library
- 23 Wildlife Education Day Tabling
- 23 Tree Bank Work Day
- 23 Tree Planting Outreach
- 28 Country Lane School Planting
- 29 Tree Bank Work Day
- 30 Neighborhood Planting & Demo – 95125
- 30 TOCKNA Neighborhood Planting
- 30 Tree Care at Calco Creek & Rafter Ridge
- 30 Tully Community Library Tabling
- 30 Trick-or-Tree Tour at St. James Park
- 30 Tree Bank Work Day
- 30 Tree Planting Outreach
- 31 Haunt the Hallow Tabling at History Parkol

November

- 3 Kelley Park Tree Planting
- 3 Almaden County School Planting
- 3 Tree Amigo Class – Office
- 4 Lincoln High School Volunteer Fair Tabling
- 5 Tree Talk at Los Alamitos Elementary School
- 5 Fischer Middle School Tree Planting
- 5 Tree Bank Work Day
- 6 Neighborhood Planting & Demo – TBA
- 6 Tree Amigo Class – Tree Planting
- 6 Cub Scout Workshop – Office
- 6 Muslim Green Team Eco-Fair Tabling
- 6 Tree Bank Work Day
- 10 Zanker Road Resource Management LTD Planting
- 10 Tree Amigo Class – Office
- 12 Tree Bank Work Day
- 13 Neighborhood Planting & Demo – TBA
- 13 Cub Scout Workshop – Office
- 13 Tree Planting Outreach
- 13 Tree Bank Work Day
- 17 Tree Amigo Class – Office
- 17 Volunteer Meeting – Pruning Workshop
- 19 Tree Bank Work Day
- 20 Neighborhood Planting & Demo – TBA
- 20 Tree Amigo Class – Tree Bank
- 20 Cub Scout Workshop – Tree Bank
- 20 Tree Planting Outreach
- 20 Tree Bank Work Day

December

- 1 Tree Amigo Class – Office
- 3 Tree Bank Work Day
- 4 Neighborhood Planting & Demo – TBA
- 4 Tree Amigo Class – Tree Tour
- 4 Cub Scout Workshop – Tree Bank
- 4 Tree Bank Work Day
- 4 Tree Planting Outreach
- 8 Tree Amigo Class – Office
- 10 Tree Talk at Kennedy Elementary
- 10 Tree Bank Work Day
- 11 Eco-Holiday Workshop – Office
- 11 Neighborhood Planting & Demo – TBA
- 11 Cub Scout Workshop – Office
- 11 Santa Visits Alviso Tabling
- 11 Tree Planting Outreach
- 11 Tree Bank Work Day

Eco-Holiday Workshop

Saturday, December 11th
12-3pm check in at 11:30am
Held at the OCF Office

Green up your holiday season with this hands-on workshop. Learn simple ways to decrease your carbon footprint with creative alternatives. Decorate ornaments, craft your own gifts, make your own cards and much more.

[Eco-Holiday Raffle at the end of the Workshop!](#)

Join Our Trained Volunteers Corps!

Tree Amigo Course Begins January 2011

Receive training in tree planting and care, proper pruning, coaching volunteers, conducting presentations and more! Taught by Our City Forest's staff, this 19-hour certification course will prepare you to assist with monthly planting and outreach projects in the community. Please contact volunteer@ourcityforest.org for more information.

Course consists of five (5) Wednesday classes from 6 – 8 pm at the OCF office and three (3) Saturday classes from 9 am – 12 pm at project sites in San José



Urban Forest: 1, Chainsaw: 0

Tree Advocate Saves Magnolia

After several weeks and more than 40 hours dedicated to fighting its removal, Randi Fredricks can rest assured that the 50-year old Magnolia tree in front of her home will be spared.

The tree, which inhabits the parking strip along her street, was to be cut down by Fredricks' neighbor for reasons stated on the removal permit as: sewer damage, sidewalk damage and curb/gutter damage. With little visible damage to the sidewalk, Fredricks was unconvinced about the necessity of removal and jumped into action to save the large Magnolia that shaded her home and yard.

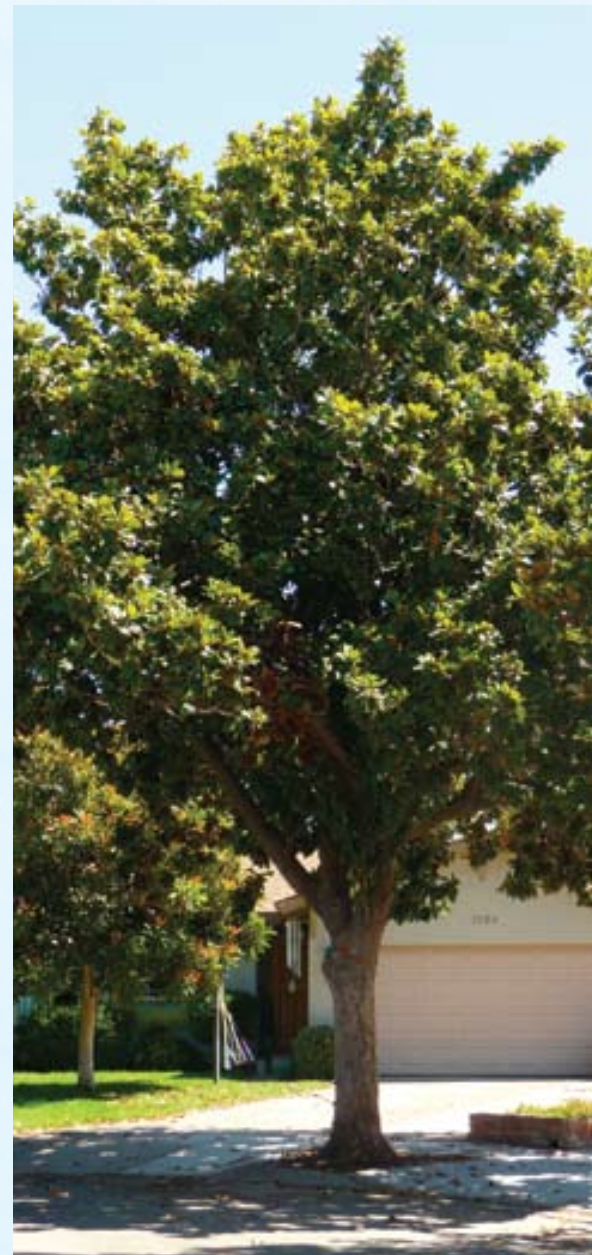
"When my neighbor decided the tree had to go, I decided I had to do everything I could to save it," said Fredricks. "The tree is important to me because it is beautiful. I have a relationship with it." With her own money, Randi hired two certified arborists to examine the tree. Both found it to be in good health and old enough to have stopped growing additional large roots. Fredricks also

worked to prepare for the upcoming removal hearing, gathering support from neighbors and friends via her website and local media. She even found sewer maps from Public Works showing that no nearby lines were in jeopardy, the closest being 12-feet from the tree's base.

In the end, the City denied the removal request, finding that any damage caused by roots could be amended with minor root pruning. Fredricks has taken on this repair cost and hopes to garner support from the community to cover the total expense of her efforts, roughly \$1,000. Donations can be sent to Randi Fredrick, P.O. Box 8252, San Jose, 95125.

Despite the sacrifice, time and money put toward this effort, Randi has no regrets and is proud to have made a difference.

To learn more about San José tree laws and how you can help advocate for local street trees, visit [Our City Forest](http://www.ourcityforest.org) online at www.ourcityforest.org or call (408) 998-7337.



Our Growing Staff Team



This fall, Our City Forest welcomed two new staff members to our growing team: former Tree Amigo and OCF AmeriCorps member Steve Homer (left) and certified municipal arborist Brian Henry (right).

Steve, who served as an AmeriCorps member with OCF from September, 2008 through July, 2010; has been appointed to the position of Tree Nursery Manager and will oversee development of Our City

Forest's new Community Tree Bank and Training Center, in addition to managing a team of AmeriCorps service members. Though Steve had a long career in high-tech manufacturing, he was all the while searching for what he really wanted to do "when he grew up." As a Kiwanis club member, Steve was first introduced to Our City Forest via service projects at community plantings and the rest is history. An avid outdoorsman, Steve enjoys spending his free time in the Sierras, particularly around Yosemite National Park, and is known for closely following his favorite professional sports: baseball, football and hockey.

Newly appointed Director of Education Brian Henry will oversee OCF's many community education programs and

manage a team of AmeriCorps service members. A native of Cupertino, Brian recently returned to the San José area after spending several years on the east coast. With him, Brian brings a great deal of tree expertise, having received Masters degrees in both Forestry and Landscape Design. After serving as the City Arborist in Baltimore, MD for the past year, Brian looks forward to "getting back to his south bay roots!" Outside of work, Brian enjoys exploring the foothills with his family and tending to a small vineyard they planted together.

Planting Highlights



Northwood Elementary School

The Northwood Elementary campus is greener than ever thanks to the combined effort of over 114 community and corporate volunteers. A group of 84 Cisco employees joined Northwood students and Our City Forest Tree Amigos to plant 55 shade trees on the property, including native Coast Live Oaks and Coast Redwood. Special thanks to Jean Olson and Tree Amigo PJ Darling from Cisco for helping to coordinate this event and to Cisco for their ongoing support of OCF!



Monterey Highway

With help from over 30 Deloitte volunteers, 55 Laurus Nobilis – commonly known as Bay Laurel – were planted along Monterey Highway in South San José. As they mature, these trees will help to buffer traffic noise, filter harmful airborne pollutants and provide cooling shade. Our thanks to Deloitte for their generous contribution of \$4,000 and for their staff's commitment to community service.



Lake Cunningham Park

In May, volunteers from across San José worked together to plant 33 trees at Lake Cunningham Park. Despite the challenges posed by steep terrain, members of local Kiwanis and Boy Scout troops along with students from several local schools – including Kennedy Middle School and Piedmont, Leland, Branham, James Lick and Evergreen Valley High Schools - pitched in to ensure the trees were properly planted and that wooden stakes were installed to protect each tree. Special thanks to steward Earl Davis who will oversee the watering and care of these young trees for the next 3 years.

Special Thanks To Our Donors

April 1–September 30, 2010

SPONSORS: 5,000+

U.S. Forest Service
California Volunteers
City of San José
Earth Share
California Department of Transportation
CAL FIRE

CONTRIBUTORS

Majestic Oaks: \$500-\$4999

Almaden Hills Estates HOA
Deloitte
Dolce Hotel & Resorts

Redwood Circle: \$100-\$499

Alice Gary
Cliff & Carolyn Burrous
Dennis Kolte
Ed & Margaret Ring
Jennifer Correa
Joseph & Ann Ranish
Joseph & Donna Preston
Martin-Keller Family
Matthew & Abigail Haynes
Michele Lea Harms
Pat Flaherty-Houston
Tim Hunt

Tree Ambassadors: Up to \$99

Alejandro Vargas

Arthur Fiance
Barbara Kelly-Pedersen
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David & Helen Marzolf
Donald M. DuShane
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In-kind Donations

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Michaela Marek - Eucalyptus Magazine
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Noel Card
Sugar Butter Flour
The Wood Connection
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Yaun Luon

Celebration of 50,000 Trees Planted!

Thank you for helping us commemorate this major planting milestone at our GREEN FAIR events in Willow Glen, the Capitol Flea Market and Santana Row!

Visit us on Facebook for more photos from these tree-themed festivals!

Tree Tours • Ask the Tree Doctor
 Adopt-an-Oak • Pruning Demos
 Tree of Fortune • Photos With O2
 Face-painting • Tree Toss Game



At the Flea Market, a family poses with our tree mascot "O2."



This excited adoptee has agreed to plant and care for her Coast Live Oak seedling.



With help from a translator, OCF arborist Christian Bonner teaches about young tree pruning in both English and Spanish.



Our City Forest experts are on hand to answer visitors' tree-related questions.

Got These?

- Cars & trucks
- Computers
- Digital cameras
- Bungee cords
- Tools (adjustable wrenches, pick axes, digging bars, etc.)
- Office lamps
- Chairs & office furniture
- Hose nozzles (with on/off control)
- Work/garden gloves
- Art supplies
- Food & restaurant vouchers
(For AmeriCorps members)

Our City Forest Needs Your Help!

Remember, your donation is tax deductible!



OCF staff members Monica Nanez (left) and Amanda Grebner accept the 2010 Clean Air Award on behalf of Our City Forest.

Breathe California Recognizes OCF

Our City Forest is honored to be the recipient of a 2010 Clean Air Award from Breathe California, a non-profit working to promote lung health.

The award, in the category of Public Awareness and Education, recognizes Our City Forest's efforts to improve air quality and combat climate change by planting trees and educating the public about the importance of our urban forest.

Thank you, Breathe California, for this very special recognition and for honoring the importance of trees in protecting our health!



OUR CITY FOREST
151 West Mission St. Suite 151
San José, CA 95110

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Greening Zanker Road Landfill

**– Before & After –
Del Roble Elementary**



**When is the best time to plant a tree? Twenty years ago!
When is the next best time? TODAY!**

Our City Forest, a 501(c)3 non-profit, is cultivating a sustainable city and a sense of community by engaging Silicon Valley residents from all walks of life in the development and stewardship of the urban ecosystem.