



OUR CITY FOREST DECEMBER 2004

Pruning Workshop Big Hit with San José City Employees



San José City employees from six different departments gathered at the Water Pollution Control Plant in Alviso on November 18th for a pruning workshop led by OCF arborist Christian Bonner and Senior Maintenance Worker Don Zonic. Along with Tree Amigos Louie

Urbina and Pierre Tardif, participants came from the Dept. of Transportation, General Services, Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services, Public Works, and the Airport. Whatever their job description, the one thing they all have in common is responsibility for tree care, but yet have little or no training in the art and science of pruning. As one maintenance worker put it, "I feel like I'm just guessing". All expressed a keen interest in learning the proper pruning techniques required for the long term health of trees.

The workshop emphasized how to make proper pruning cuts and which cuts are needed to create good tree structure and form. Participants also received hands-on practical experience by structurally pruning 20 of the 60 trees planted by OCF at the site since 2002. As a result of the training, hundreds of city trees will be healthier and safer, requiring less long term maintenance and saving taxpayer dollars.



TREE SANTAS TO DELIVER HOLIDAY CHEER

Tree Amigos will become Tree Santas on Dec. 19th when they decorate and deliver living trees to homebound residents. First Covenant Church on Coe Ave. is once again hosting the annual tree decorating party. About 50 recipients are referred to OCF by local social services agencies. Help is still needed to arrange donations of small Italian stone pines and small, new ornaments. Call 998-7337 if you can help spread cheer this holiday season.



Tree Santa Desie Mehrabian gets some decorating help from her son Albert.

Tree Amigos Share Favorite Stories

Tree Amigo Desie Mehrabian remembers a special planting that began after a Catholic groom and a Thai bride were married at St Joseph's cathedral. The bridal party was transported to St. James park in bike buggies for a tree ceremony led by a Buddhist monk. The guests wrapped a long ribbon around a large tree and encircled the tree while holding the ribbon - a gesture of respect for nature.

The OCF volunteers, dressed in their nicest tree planting clothes to show respect and appreciation, planted the tree. Each guest added a shovel full of dirt and then brought water in silver pitchers. "It was cool," said Desie. "We felt honored to help make the wedding more memorable."

Fellow Tree Amigo Mark Tenbrink (who is also Desie's spouse!) recalls the planting on Arbor Day at Cesar Chavez Elementary school in Evergreen. Rather than each class coming out separately to plant the trees, the entire school body participated in a special program. They sang songs, recited poems and the kindergartners were dressed up as trees and sang a song while moving their arms like tree limbs swaying in the wind. "It was so cute and they were so appreciative," said Mark. A special day.

Upcoming Events



- Saturday, December 4th 9:00 AM - Tree Bank Work Day. Contact Christian Bonner at cbonner@ourcityforest.org
- Saturday, December 4th 9:00 AM - Leland High. Contact Asma Malik at amalik@ourcityforest.org
- Thursday, December 11th 1:00 PM - Bagby Elementary School. Contact Asma Malik at amalik@ourcityforest.org
- Saturday, December 11th 9:00 AM - San Antonio Elementary School. Contact Christian Bonner at cbonner@ourcityforest.org
- Saturday, December 11th 9:00 AM - Berryessa Tulip Replacement. Contact Teresa Gibson at tgibson@ourcityforest.org
- Saturday, December 11th 9:00 AM - S. 8th St. Contact Asma Malik at amalik@ourcityforest.org
- Saturday, December 18th 9:00 AM - 95124 Tulip Replacement. Contact Asma Malik at amalik@ourcityforest.org
- Saturday, December 18th 9:00 AM - West San José Tulip Replacement. Contact Asma Malik at amalik@ourcityforest.org

A Lot to be Thankful For!

There was much to be thankful for on Thanksgiving Day. Thousands of trees planted and thriving in our urban forest for one—and the OCF Tree Amigos and volunteers that make it happen for another. In fact the Our City Forest team started the month of November without pausing after two October 30th

plantings in Willow Glen and South San José. On November 6th, a whopping 60 trees were planted at Wheatley Place in the Evergreen area of San José followed by another 15 trees in the Vendome Neighbor-



The downtown Naglee Park project brought neighbors together.

hood. The next weekend, 10 single increment plantings were completed in South San José and on November 20th, the grounds of the Water Pollution Control Plant in Alviso were graced with 20 new trees.



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