



OUR CITY FOREST

Green Wave Due to Hit Shore!

Your nonprofit tree organization has toiled throughout the past year not only planting over 2,200 trees but raising money for the coming year! As a result, more than 2,000 free 15-gallon shade trees for streets, parks and schools are available for 2004-2005. So get in the "Splash Zone" and experience this year's green wave.



All neighborhood areas of San José are eligible for free trees although the total number available varies by section of the city. Neighborhood and school groups interested in planting 12 or more trees may submit a simple tree grant application and begin the project planning phase within one week. Those requesting fewer trees are placed on a slightly longer waiting list. An application form may be printed from our web site at www.ourcityforest.org and faxed or mailed to OCF.

By the way...Our City Forest was hit hard by a City of S.J. budget cut, so we need your help. Additional fundraising continues in order to provide technical assistance, project coordination, truck/gas expenses, educational materials, volunteer training, insurance, tree maintenance, and to track all trees for 3 years. Donations to OCF are tax-deductible and are always welcome. Thanks for your support.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, September 11 9:00AM–Noon Boynton Replacement Planting; 1063 Boynton Ave. (West SJ) Contact Asma Malik at amalik@ourcityforest.org
- Saturday, September 18 9:00AM Planting at Santa Teresa High School 6150 Snell Ave; Contact Christian Bonner at cbonner@ourcityforest.org
- Thursday, September 23 6:15PM Volunteer Meeting at the OCF office; Pizza at 6:15PM. Slide Show and Talk – A Cultural Perspective on Insects as Adversaries – begins at 6:30PM
- Saturday, September 25 9:00AM Planting in the Cory Neighborhood (Downtown SJ); Contact Christian Bonner at cbonner@ourcityforest.org
- Saturday, September 25 9:00AM Planting in the Burbank Neighborhood (Downtown SJ); Contact Asma Malik at amalik@ourcityforest.org

"The creation of a community reflects a natural and very powerful urge to connect, do good, and change the world. And we are strong when we stand and work together."

—Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat

SEPTEMBER 2004

Many Thanks to Our August Tree Amigos

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

- Carol Arnoldy
- Nada Ballator
- Malia Beaulieu
- Noel & Franci Card
- Ken Hardy
- Anna Jacobs
- Diane Katzaman
- Chris Lee
- Jane McLeod
- Antony Nispel
- Anthony & Vicki Ortiz
- Martin Renteria
- Harvey Stray
- Randy Talley
- Lori Wallace-Punshinaitis

Sharing the Passion



My experience as arborist at Our City Forest has been both rewarding and inspiring. The inspiration has come, not from working with trees—which I have always had a passion for—but from the people in the community who share that passion with me. I've learned more about people in the past three and a half years than I have about trees and I hope to continue to learn more about both people and trees in the future.

There are always challenges, of course, when working at the intersection of nature and human culture. The urban forest is a complex system whose most dominate component—and perhaps the most challenging to influence—is the human population. That's why the measure of our success lies, not in the number of trees that we put into the ground, but the degree to which we

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Sharing the Passion continued

can enlist the help of the community. It is people who must provide the ongoing care to keep our urban forest a healthy one.

It's been proven repeatedly that this investment of time and energy in planting and caring for trees is worthwhile because of what the urban forest gives us in return. We quantify many of these benefits in terms of air quality and energy conservation and this leads to increased support for urban forestry funding. But, when I talk with the volunteers, it is apparent that the tree benefits aren't the real motivator. They know that trees are beneficial. But there is a more subtle, less tangible benefit engaging them that I suspect is related to a passion for trees. It keeps our volunteers coming out.

This is what inspires me to be deeply involved in the work we do at OCF. What we facilitate makes people feel good and that feels good to me. Thank you for letting me be a part of it.

Christian Bonner

A tree book to savor...

David Paul Bayles has photographed the human-tree relationship for twenty years. His images of trees in cities and suburbs illustrate, as he puts it, the tension between “what we build and what we grow.” His beautifully designed book *Urban Forest: Images of Trees in the Human Landscape* (Sierra Club Books, 2003) showcases his vision of city trees and their often precarious, sometimes triumphant, place in the human landscape.

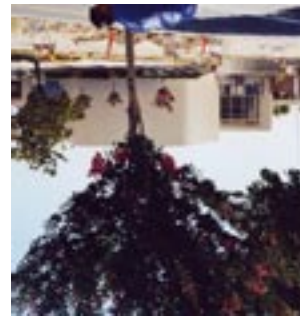


As a young man Bayles was a logger, using his wages to pay for photography classes. Over time he became fascinated with the dual role of trees—their aesthetic value and their utilitarian importance—and the tension between these roles. Today, he acknowledges a third role that urban trees play in our lives. They fill a deep human need, perhaps as reminders of the cycles of nature and our innate response to those rhythms.

Bayles describes his photographs as “inconsistencies made visual,” adding that “they are also a reminder that, no matter how many trees we destroy, often for trivial purposes, no matter how much we fool ourselves about our own delegated destruction of them, we can't live without trees.” Bayles offers few details in the captions or notes at the back of this elegant coffee table book, but his captivating images speak for themselves.

To order *Urban Forest*, go to www.ourcityforest.org and click on the Amazon.com link at the bottom of the home page. Accessing Amazon.com this way means that 10% of the purchase price of any books you buy will be donated to OCF. It's a great way to support our work.

Summer at OCF means pruning and maintenance for trees like this crepe myrtle that is having suckers removed at the base of its trunk



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