



SUFA E-News Spring 2022



Welcome to the Spring 2022 issue of the Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates (SUFA) newsletter. This quarterly newsletter will keep you informed about how you can participate in SUFA's efforts to increase the tree canopy in Sunnyvale through education, tree plantings, and advocacy.

Plant a Low-Cost Tree with the **Branch Out Sunnyvale** Program!



Branch Out Sunnyvale continues to bloom. For only \$50 you can have a tree planted on your property! You will be advised on tree selection and care requirements and the tree will be delivered to your home and planted - all courtesy of Our City Forest. The remaining cost is being taken care of by the City of Sunnyvale in an effort to increase our urban forest canopy.

The program will soon complete its first year, with the opportunity to plant another 25 trees over the next twelve months. Submit your application to schedule a planting!

For details on the program and links to the application, visit <http://www.sunnyvaltetrees.org/branch-out-sunnyvale/>

Stop by our table at the Art and Wine Festival and the Outdoor Expo. Learn how you can get a low-cost tree and the many other ways to help our urban forest.



Sunnyvale Art and Wine Festival; Saturday and Sunday, June 4th and 5th from 10am - 5pm. On Washington Ave. between Taafe and Frances.



Join Us in June!

Outdoor Expo;
Saturday, June 18th; 1 - 4pm;
Tree walks at 1:30pm and 3:00 pm;
Sunnyvale Public Library Plaza.



Sunnyvale Celebrates Arbor Day 2022



The City of Sunnyvale celebrated Arbor Day with a tree planting in Braly Park on April 19th. Sunnyvale's sister city, Iizuka, Japan, donated ten flowering cherry trees of the cultivar *Prunus yedoensis* 'Akebono'.



The fragrant flowers of this tree emerge in the spring before their leaves ("akebono" means "daybreak" in Japanese) with a spectacular display of blooms. This cultivar makes up a small but beautiful percentage of the flowering cherry trees around the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C.



Three classes of fifth-grade students from Braly Elementary School planted the ten new trees along one of the walkways. City arborists met with the students and explained the benefits of trees and then instructed the students on the planting process. City staff worked

with the students during the plantings and were impressed with how enthusiastic and efficient the students were. Mayor Larry Klein stopped by to encourage the students and appreciate the trees. A big thank you to the Sunnyvale Parks and Street Trees Division staff, Braly School fifth-graders, and our sister city, Iizuka, Japan!

Braly Park now has quite a few cherry trees lining the walkways in the park. Stop by in the spring and enjoy the blossoms.

SUFA will host a table at the Sunnyvale Art and Wine Festival Saturday and Sunday, June 4th and 5th and would like help staffing the table. Sign up to join an experienced outreach volunteer and share information about trees and the Branch Out Sunnyvale program.



The event runs from 10am-6pm and the SUFA table will be in the free speech area. (On Washington between Taaffe and Frances) Two-hour shifts are available - 10am-12pm, 12pm-2pm, 2pm-4pm, and 4pm-6pm (includes breaking down the booth).

Sign up at:

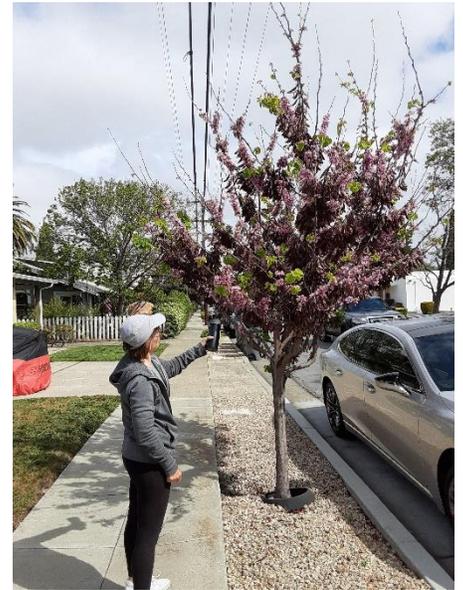
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AZ9sLX-RDEhyEsgE36iefsATQbjdyfAGz8NUFmnhMig/edit?usp=sharing>

Contact: info@sunnyvaltetrees.org with any questions.

We continue our series featuring common Sunnyvale street trees with information about the trees presented in an interview format. These are trees you'll see as you walk or bike through Sunnyvale neighborhoods or parks.

SUFA: Thank you for being willing to be interviewed by Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates. First, can I get your full name?

Western Redbud: You bet! I'm *Cercis occidentalis* better known in these parts as a western redbud. *Cercis* comes from the Greek word "kerkis" meaning weaver's shuttle which refers to the shape of my seed pods. *Occidentalis* is from "occidental" which means native to the west. And I am proud indeed to be able to say I'm a California native. A shout out to friends and family living in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah as well.



Tree on the Street Interview: Western Redbud

SUFA: You have the most beautiful, vibrantly-colored blossoms. What can you tell me about them?

WR: Well, despite having the name redbud my blossoms are usually described as magenta. That's for those of you had the 64-box of crayons growing up. If you only had the box of 8 you can just call them red.

SUFA: You are all abuzz with bees today, presumably because of your blossoms.

WR: Yes. My blossoms are tiny but full of nectar. The nectar is deep inside so only long-tongued bees like bumble and carpenter bees can get at it and oh! does that ever tickle! Hummingbirds and butterflies also can reach the nectar. And here's a fun fact – my blossoms are actually edible and a good source of vitamin C.

SUFA: Hmm...in looking closely, your blossoms seem to come directly out of your branches.

WR: Yes, redbud blossoms appear directly out of the woody part of our branches rather than from new growth or shoots. This characteristic is usually found only in tropical plants so it's unique among trees in temperate climates. For those of you who want to impress your friends, it's a process known as cauliflory – not to be confused with cauliflower or Caulifornia.

SUFA: You are also loaded with seeds pods!

WR: Yes, they look a lot like pea pods because all redbud species are actually members of the legume family. Each pod contains about seven seeds and we sometimes hang onto them until winter. In addition to our pea-like blossoms, young pods and roasted seeds are also edible. And, being a member of the legume family gives me another unique characteristic - the two halves of my leaves can move independently in response to changes in light. How cool is that?!

Continued on next page



SUFA: Cool indeed! You seem to be covered with a mix of blossoms, new leaves, and seed pods – all at the same time. May I get a closeup photo of that?

WR: Please go ahead. I'm just multitasking like everyone else in Silicon Valley.

SUFA: Anything else you'd like to share?

WR: Yes! Another fun fact: Our twigs are both straight and very pliable and therefore are greatly sought after by indigenous Americans and used to weave baskets and create art. They also use a reddish dye derived from our bark to tint their creations.

SUFA: We always ask our street tree interviewees what makes them a good tree for the urban forest. What are your attributes in that regard?

WR: Well, as a California native I am very drought tolerant and, naturally, of great importance to native bee and bird species. I don't get really big so I am powerline friendly. I'm deciduous so I provide shade in the summer but let heat and light through in the winter.

SUFA: Well, thank you so much for your time. Any final thoughts?

WR: Yes. Sunnyvale does plant us as a street tree but, sadly, we are few and far between – I'm a tad lonely for others of my kind. Perhaps your readers might consider planting one or two of us in their yards. We can guarantee a lovely show of blossoms in the spring, brightly colored leaves in the fall, and lots of birds and bees in between time.



Upcoming Tree Walks

Ortega Park: Saturday, May 14; 11am - 12:30pm; 636 Harrow Way; meet at the park flagpole.

Library and Civic Center: Saturday, June 18; 1:30pm and 3pm; as part of the Outdoor Expo, Sunnyvale Public Library Plaza; meet at the SUFA booth.

Washington Park: Tuesday, June 21 (summer solstice); 7 - 8:30pm; 840 W. Washington Ave.; meet at the park flagpole

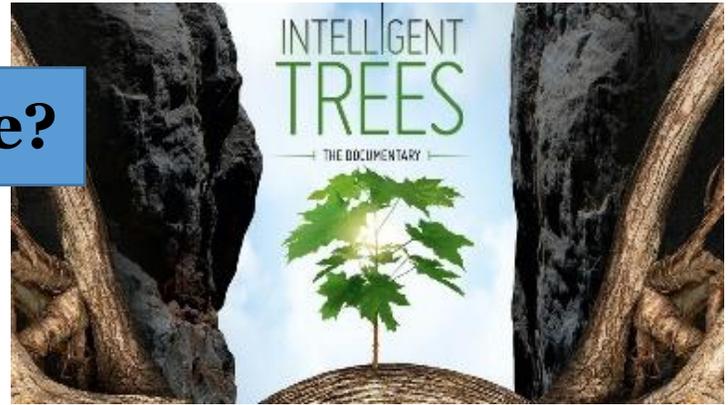
Murphy Park: Tuesday, July 26; 7pm - 8:30pm; 250 N. Sunnyvale Ave.; meet at the park flagpole.

SNAIL Neighborhood: Edible tree walk; July; date and time TBD. Keep a lookout on Next Door and/or check <http://www.sunnyvaletrees.org/upcoming-events/> for future information.

Can't join us on these days? Do your own walk by downloading tree walk maps at <http://www.sunnyvaletrees.org/tree-walk-maps/> (Lakewood, Ponderosa, Murphy, Washington, Ortega Park and the Library/Civic Center).

Movie Night, Anyone?

Pull out your warm blanket and grab some popcorn for a movie night featuring *Intelligent Trees (The Documentary)* on Kanopy Video (<https://sunnyvale.kanopy.com/video/intelligent-trees>)



(The first in a series of recommended documentaries about trees)

Synopsis: Trees talk, know family ties, and care for their young? Is this too fantastic to be true? German forester Peter Wohlleben (author of [The Hidden Life of Trees](#)) and scientist Suzanne Simard (author of [Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest](#)) have been observing and investigating the communication among trees over decades. Their findings are most astounding.

Intelligent Trees features the main observations that are covered in Wohlleben's book such as the stump that has been kept alive by its neighboring trees, the old tree-couple that looks after each other, the Mother Trees that suckle their offspring, etc. This film also goes beyond those observations and claims, by matching them with the latest underlying forest science research.

TIP: Through Kanopy, Sunnyvale Public Library provides access to various movies and documentaries. Learn more at:

<https://sunnyvale.ca.gov/community/library/collections/streaming/default.htm>

Visit us at: www.sunnyvaletrees.org

Copyright © 2022 Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates, All rights reserved.