

FEBRUARU 2023 VOLUME 53 NUMBER 2

# ECO-LOGIC

The Official Newsletter of the Tri-City Ecology Center



OGIC

# THE MIGHTY OAK



There is nothing special about Oak trees. That, interestingly, is why they predominate. Because Oaks don't have a specialized niche requirement to grow, they grow almost everywhere! The redwood is the tallest tree, reaching upwards of 368 feet, but prefers a cool, fogbound band of the coast. The General Sherman sequoia, weighing in at 2 thousand tons, grows at high elevations. The bristle cone pine, living for 4,867 years, is only found on a high mountain ridge away from pests. But the oaks, on landscapes from Massachusetts to Mexico City, seem to be everywhere and accommodate few special needs. Yet they provide so much!

California is blessed with 18 species of oak, nine of which are trees, and they symbolize the strong, rich, diverse ecology that makes our environment special. Oaks belong to the genus *Quercus*, a latin name derived from the Celtic words *quer*, meaning fine, and *cuez*, meaning tree. Scientists believe there are 300 – 500 species worldwide and humans discovered long ago that the “fine tree” could supply food, tools, fuel and many resources. The Oak is known for four characteristics: the acorn, wind-pollinated flowers, strong, complex wood, and longevity up to centuries.

When the baby oak, the embryo, begins to grow it is sustained by the two cotyledons of the acorn, rich in protein, fats, and carbohydrates. An acorn that escapes the search of birds, mammals (including humans), insects, bacteria, and fungi, has a chance to set down a root that can support the young plant when the acorn has been used up. The root draws up water and soon the shoot rises and early leaves begin photosynthesis. Of the tens of thousands of acorns that are dropped from a tree, just one may take hold of a spot beneath the sun and begin a new tree. But that one tree may be enough to maintain a lineage that contributes to the savannah, Chaparrals, and mountains of California, covered by this indigenous species that feeds many. As nurses told the editor when he started his medical career – “Every great oak started off as a small nut!”.

Acorns, leaves, wood, and sap feed countless insects, birds, and mammals. Think of the California Jay, be it Blue Jay or scrub Jay, or the acorn Woodpecker that will gather acorns and spread them across the larger terrain. The Woodpecker, singing waka-waka, and karrit-cut, will harvest acorns and store them in holes drilled into trees. The scrub Jay will place its caches in the ground, and can never remember or find all of them at the end of the season. When you look at the random forest shape or individual Oaks on a hillside, you may acknowledge the birds. Black bears too may help disperse the acorns, although they depend on this food source in the fall to build up fat for hibernation. Squirrels? Well, you may have noticed a few in your backyard.

## ACORNS OF THE PAST



*Native Californians knew where to go. The Black Oak and Coastal Live Oak were favorites. The acorn meal contained up to 18% fat, 6% protein, and 68% carbohydrate, far richer than corn or wheat and enough to carry them through the winter months. Each tribe had its own methods for acorn gathering, storing, drying, leaching, pounding and cooking. Below is a sample grinding rock that you can locate at the upper aspect of the Vargas Plateau, and even grind some acorns if you will.*

*Tribes, villages, and families would base their locations on Oak groves, but these groves and trees began to disappear when the new cultures arrived. With the arrival of the Spaniards cattle became numerous along with other grazing animals, and the early seedlings were devoured. The Mexican Era included extensive ranching and cattle and the American period included the clearing of millions of acres for farms and orchards. Today the cottage of industry of housing cleans land just as rapidly and communities of blue oak, coast live oak, and valley oak are threatened*



Acorn Grinding rock – Vargas Plateau

## WHO PLANTS TREES IN FREMONT?



*The Urban Friends of the Forest Team – Warwick Elementary School*

*Urban Forest Friends (UFF) did a January planting at Warwick Elementary School – adding to at least 300 other trees planted in Fremont.*

*Niles Rotary REACT Team making 1,260 seed mudballs in 2 hours! Valley Oak and Coastal Oak acorns are the seed within and they will be tossed at the John Muir Trust land in Martinez as well as Central Park in days ahead. President-Elect of Niles Rotary Jeff Schinkel having fun with mud. (See next page)*



REACT – Rotary Environmental Action Team

*"IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE. KNOWLEDGE IS LIMITED. IMAGINATION ENCIRCLES THE WORLD."*

*ALBERT EINSTEIN*

## **LETTER TO CITY MANAGEMENT**

from Lynn Miller of Urban Friends of the Forest

(along with blue letter response from the city Community Services Director)

Dear Ms. Shackelford,

As a City of Fremont Community Partner in the Urban Forest Management Plan (see COF Community Partner letter attached), Urban Forest Friends (formerly TUFA) has been eagerly anticipating the UFMP draft review process. The Plan Draft to go before the City Council is, again, being pushed back to a date beyond 3/30/23. Suzanne and Roger are working hard, in addition to their job positions, to act as the city arborists AND finish the UFMP.

We had excitedly volunteered many hours working with Kit Jory to ensure the CAL FIRE grant community tree planting components were completed. However, from July 2020 to present, Kit was removed as the designated Urban Forester/ Program Manager. Many of the objectives and deliverables are not done. (Please see not done (ND) objectives attachment). Kit was reassigned as Program Manager AND City Arborist. He worked 60-80 hours per week, and devoted too little time to the UFMP as his other full- time Arborist position came first. Yes, I saw that his pay was substantial, however, it was impossible to devote time to the Master UFMP. As you know, he resigned.

Meanwhile, a SECOND, more complex CAL FIRE grant (8GAZ1444) is encumbered with the COF. It began last May, but has not even been looked at!

This second \$850,000.00 -grant award is to:

- Plant 1,000 trees using community partners (UFF), contractual services, and the tree stewardship program (to be developed and taught). *An RFP was issued in 2022 and a contract is currently being negotiated.*
- Create and use educational materials for homeowners. *This scope is part of bullet point 4.*

- Create a tree maintenance plan *An RFP was issued in 2022 and a contract is currently being negotiated.*
- Create and implement a Citizen Community Tree Stewardship Program (think Canopy of Palo Alto) *An RFP was issued in 2022 and a contract is currently being negotiated and near completion.*
- Establish an Urban Forester training program to provide interns with on-the-job training, to manage the tree programs during the three-year grant program *To be addressed.*
- Oversee maintenance on the 1000 planted trees using a combination of listed resources, including grads of the Tree program and UFF. *To be addressed.*
- Oversee contractual consultant's services to assist in CEQA compliance, tracking GHG calculations and accounting for the grant *To be addressed.*

*Editor's note* –There are many issues that are in need of resolution. A meeting on Feb 15 with the Recreation Commission includes a working group discussion of the plan. See the announcement below and also an invitation to join in tree planting work from Lynn.

## REVIEW THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT

Review Fremont's first Urban Forest Management Plan and find out how trees and the urban forest are shaping Fremont's future! [here](https://www.fremont.gov/government/departments/urban-forestry/urban-forest-plan).

<https://www.fremont.gov/government/departments/urban-forestry/urban-forest-plan>

Join us for the [Tree Advisory Working Group](#) meeting on Wednesday, February 15th. at 7:00 p.m. in the Fremont City Council Chambers, located at 3300 Capitol Avenue. The meeting will take place during the City's Recreation Commission meeting. Community members can make comments on the draft Urban Forestry Management Plan by:

- Attending and speaking at the February 15, 2023 meeting of the Tree Advisory Working Group at the Recreation Commission Special Meeting
- Submitting comments to [tleung@fremont.gov](mailto:tleung@fremont.gov) by Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 4 p.m. with the Subject Line: UFMP Comments

A special thank you to all who have already contributed. For more information visit the Fremont Urban Forest website



*Hello Tri City Ecology Center members!*

*Would you like to take direct climate action?*

*Urban Forest Friends has a wonderful tree planting project coming up, March 25th, in conjunction with East Bay Regional Parks. We will be creating an Oak tree Savannah using young one-gallon trees we have grown.*

*Please use the link below to volunteer to spend a few hours getting trees planted in pre-augered soil. It is in a beautiful location and will be fun!*

*There is a section, on the sign-up doc below, for adults and , lower down, a section for students.*

*We hope you can join Craig Bartcliff of EBRP, his staff, and the U.F.F. tree-planting coaches for a great morning in Quarry Lakes Park!*

*[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13d45X2rqpjTc8NZv92e1\\_tcAVSrjKxxJE3yIOSC48kU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13d45X2rqpjTc8NZv92e1_tcAVSrjKxxJE3yIOSC48kU/edit?usp=sharing)*

*Lynn Miller, TCEC Board Member*

*20tufa20@gmail.com*

*510-604-8206*

*urbanforestfriends.org*

# THE URBAN FOREST: BENEFITS

## Benefits of Fremont's 77,000 Public Trees



TOTAL VALUE	ENERGY SAVINGS	AIR QUALITY	PROPERTY VALUES	CARBON SERVICES	STORM-WATER
<b>\$6.8M</b>	<b>\$1.0M</b>	<b>\$261k</b>	<b>\$5M</b>	<b>\$105k</b>	<b>\$402k</b>
Annual	6.5M kWh saved	37k pounds removed	Added value	14.2M pounds stored	73M gallons prevented
	210k Therms prevented			8.7M pounds sequestered	
				6.9M pounds avoided	
(\$44M Citywide)	Usage of 1,400 households	Ozone, NO <sub>2</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> , PM reduced	7-18% increase	870 vehicle emissions	110 Olympic-sized pools

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

- *Earth Day is around the corner – April 22 – TCEC will have a table so come and visit.*

- *Anyone who lives or attends school in Union City and knows a student in kindergarten through K-12 ?*

*Theme: Make Earth Day Every Day!*

*Activities impact one another, our planet and future generations.*

*Ideas such as environmental conservation, waste reduction, recycling and composting. See link below -*

*<https://www.unioncity.org/426/Annual-Recycling-Art-Poster-Contest>*

- *The Grey Water Project's 4th Annual Earth Day Competition*

*Who can Participate: Students K-12 from around the world*

*Theme: Invest in our Planet*

*Categories: Visual Art, Music, Dance, Literature,*

*Deadline: April 1st, 2023*

*Prices/Recognition: Cash Prizes for Winning Entries.*

*All entries will be displayed at the Earth Day Celebrations by The Grey Water Project, City of Fremont, CA and Fremont Creates, CA*

*Find out More and Register Now*

*<https://thegreywaterproject.org>*

**WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD ACT? IS IT STILL  
HAPPENING?  
YES IT IS!**



If you go to the third act website <https://thirdact.org> you will see opportunities to connect with upcoming events. It's a time for oldsters and youngsters to make a difference in keeping the planet healthy. "There is no Planet B" and the U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says - "We must end the merciless, relentless, senseless war on nature.", and "I have a special message for fossil-fuel producers and their enablers scrambling to expand production and raking in monster profits: If you cannot set a credible course for net-zero, with 2025 and 2030 targets covering all your operations, you should not be in business. Your core product is our core problem. We need a renewables revolution, not a self-destructive fossil fuel resurgence."

March 23, 2023 will be the Third Act "National Day of Action" There will be events in the Bay Area or you can start your own!

## INTERVIEW WITH AN OAK - BY TCEC



*Hello. You've been silent for a long time. Would it be alright if we asked a few questions?*



*Well, to be honest, I happen to have a condition. I'm kind of a silent Oak.*



*Condition? Silent? What do you mean?*



*I've been exposed to a nasty fungus called *Phytophthora ramorum*. It causes sudden oak death. You know – SOD.*



*Wow, we're so sorry! We know this disease has spread from Southern California to Oregon, and it spreads easily. It travels by rain-splash and rainwater and it's even had an effect on redwood trees and especially the tanoaks.*



*Can you see any bleeding cankers or leaves falling off? Do I look bad?*



*Not really. We would have to say you look majestic!*



*You're just saying that. You know, we all tend to keep silent. We do all our communication underground. We usually like fungus and bacteria and phyto-bacteria and all that stuff. We talk with other trees. But this *Phytophthora* really sucks. Literally.*



*Oh sure. Ok, just one single question if alright with you. What can we do to help?*



*Plant more trees. As they say, the best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago, but right now is good. Just do it!*

## TRI CITY ECOLOGY CENTER ELECTION TIME



*.All TCEC members will be receiving a ballot card in the mail soon, look out for an A5 size white envelope marked Election Materials Enclosed.*

*The ballot card is stamped and addressed, check the box next to the name for each position to show your support and pop it in the mail before Feb 27th.*

*The ballot is for the 4 elected officer positions.*

*Current Nominations are:*

- Chair Caroline Harris*
- Vice Chair Liz Ames*
- Secretary Janis Stob*
- Treasurer Beth Rasler*

*There is space for write-in candidates for each position on the card. We will count the returned cards and announce the winners at the in-person TCEC annual Board meeting at Office 3375 Country Drive Fremont 94536 at 7:30 pm.*

## **TRI CITY ECOLOGY CENTER ELECTION TIME**

*.In the same envelope is the volunteer card for you to let us know which TCEC activity you would like to participate in this year, we anticipate the usual annual lemonade booth, Earthday and make a difference day events, plus the monthly Local history museum garden spot. Maybe you want to take a turn at helping in the office or writing an article for this newsletter, this is your chance to let up know how you want to interact.*

# Special Price

## BIOCOMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

7 inch plate (50 per pack)	\$ 3.70
10 inch plate (50 per pack)	\$ 7.20
11.5 oz bowl (50 per pack)	\$ 2.70
8 oz no tree hot cup	\$ 4.00
9 oz cold cup (50 per pack)	\$ 4.90
10 oz cold cup (50 per pack)	\$ 6.25
16 oz cold cup (50 per pack)	\$ 5.35
Teaspoon, fork or knife (50 per pack)	\$ 2.10
3 gal kitchen pail bag 17"X17 " (50 per roll)	\$ 4.00
13 gal tall kitchen pail bag 17"X17 " (50 per roll)	\$ 3.15
100 count straws	\$ 1.45

\*All prices reflect our nonprofit discount and tax. This benefit is for TCEC members only.

Orders may be picked up at 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, on Thursdays between 11 AM – 2 PM, or by special arrangement. When purchasing please fill out an order form and pay by cash or check. Sorry, we don't have change. Questions? Call Dee Miner at 510 9406272 or email her at muskox44@hotmail.com and please cc Caroline Harris at caroline.harris@earthlink.net.

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Do you have news or events you would like to share with Tri City Ecology's members?

Do you have any ideas on what would make Eco-Logic an even better publication?

Let us know!

We would love your feedback and are always looking for Fresh faces and ideas!

Email us @ [richgodfrey77@gmail.com](mailto:richgodfrey77@gmail.com)

Please check out our website – [www.tricityecology.org](http://www.tricityecology.org) and Face Book

You can always call and leave a message at 510 793 6222

And if you haven't joined TCEC yet, here's how



# BECOME A MEMBER

## WANT TO JOIN TCEC?

If you want to become a member please click [HERE](#) to fill out this form and mail a check to 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA 94536. To know more about TCEC please visit our website at <http://www.tricityecology.org>.

Board meets on the first Thursday of each month on Zoom due to Covid-1. Please call to verify. If you wish to speak on a subject, please call 510.793.6222 or 510.790.1685.

If you have any suggestions or want to contact us, please fill out [THIS](#) form.

## TRI CITY ECOLOGY BOARD

Chair	Caroline Harris	 415 377 9200.
Vice Chair	Elizabeth Ames	
Secretary	Janis Stob	
Treasurer	Beth Rasler	
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