

The Tree Climber
Darrell B. Sukovitzen
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Education

- 2006 Attended seminar on Sudden Oak Death in Guerneville, sponsored by California Oak Mortality Task Force, U.S. Forest Service and California Department of Forestry
- 2002 Attended seminar on Sudden Oak Death in Rohnert Park, sponsored by California Oak Mortality Task Force
- 1999 Attended seminar on Sudden Oak Death at China Camp State Park
- 1992 Participant, American Society of Consulting Arborists Training Session in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 1972-present Self-directed research and intensive study of California native and upper-canopy trees and environmentally sound forestry practices
- 1978-1979 Graduate, Cal-OSHA Certification Program, Santa Rosa, CA—Line clearance training for work around high-voltage wires
- 1969-1972 El Molino High School, Forestville, CA

Arboricultural and Horticultural Experience

- 1999, 2000,
2006 Conducted seminars on redwood forest ecology, on behalf of Bodega Land Trust
- 1993 Service provider, County of Sonoma, hazardous tree removal
- 1992-1997 Volunteer firefighter, Jenner Volunteer Fire Department
- 1990-present Consultant, Ft. Ross Environmental Restoration Corporation
- 1989-present Service provider, Russian River Chamber of Commerce
- 1989-present Service provider, Russian River Recreation and Parks District
- 1983-1989 Arboreal Consultant, State of California Dept. of Transportation, Highway 116 Scenic Corridor
- 1983-1997 Publications in California Native Plant Society Bodega Land Trust newsletters
- 1978-present California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, contract faller
- 1979-present Self-employed as “Darrell the Tree Climber”
- 1977-1979 Line clearance tree trimmer, Sohner Tree Service, Inc. (a Pacific Gas & Electric Co. subcontractor)

Arboricultural, Horticultural and Civic Organizations

- 2003-2006 Eco-Ring, Inc. Corporate Board of Directors—Executive Committee Recording Secretary
- 2003-2006 Russian River Chamber of Commerce, Inc. Board of Directors—member
- 2005 Recipient, Environmental Protection Award for Forest Protection from Redwood Empire Environmental Center, Town Hall Coalition & Community Clean Water Institute
- 2000 Recipient of Environmentalist of the Year Award, Western Sonoma County Rural Alliance
- 1998-2005 Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission, 5th District representative*
- 1992-present Sonoma Coast State Beach Citizens’ Advisory Committee
- 1989-1990 Russian River Chamber of Commerce—Board of Directors
- 1988 Sonoma County Citizens for Clean Water—reinstating Clean Water Ordinance #339
- 1988 Camp Meeker Citizens Water Committee—Board of Directors
- 1987 Direct action with Earth First! protecting Northern California old growth redwoods
- 1987 Save the Guerneville Bridge Committee (The Bridge Club)
- 1986-1987 California Native Plant Society, Milo Baker Chapter—Newsletter Committee
- 1986-1987 Coordinated direct action with Greenpeace to protect redwoods at Dubrava Project, Guerneville
- 1986 Citizens for Watershed Protection—Executive Board member
- 1983 Sonoma County Tree Ordinance Drafting Committee
- 1983-present State of California Scenic Highway 116 Advisory Committee*
- 1981-1985 SoCo State-Mandated Emergency Medical Care Committee—Chair*

1981-present Sonoma County Water Agency 5-A Flood Zone Advisory Committee*
1980-1981 Russian River Sportsmen's Club, Inc.–President

Litigation Experience

- (1) Co-plaintiff, S.A.F.E. vs. California Department of Forestry and California Department of Corrections; represented by Susan Brandt-Holly and Elliot Lee Daum, Esq. (This lawsuit related to forest fire ecology)
- (2) Sukovitzten vs. California Department of Parks & Recreation; represented by Gary Weiner, Esq. (This CEQA writ centered around protection of Armstrong Redwood State Reserve)
- (3) Co-plaintiff, Bridge Club vs. California Department of Transportation (This CEQA writ centered around preservation of what is now a federally protected historical landmark, the Guerneville Bridge)
- (4) Co-plaintiff, Citizens for Watershed Protection and Best Forest Practices vs. California Department of Forestry and Louisiana Pacific Corporation; represented by Sharon Dugan, Esq. and Zan Hanson, Esq. (This lawsuit centered around redwood tree and watershed protection in Sonoma County)
- (5) Consultant in Danielli vs. Morgan; represented by Jim Rendell, Esq. (This was a property boundary dispute as it related to trees that were trimmed)
- (6) Co-plaintiff, Russian River Community Forum vs. Sonoma County Redevelopment Agency and Sonoma County Board of Supervisors; represented by Dottie LeMieux and Bruce Tepper, Esq. (Arguments centered around what constitutes rural vs. urban in forest lands of the Russian River area)
- (7) Expert witness, Sergianni vs. Hardy & Clearview Tree Service (Forensic analysis of alleged tree damage through trespass)
- (8) Co-plaintiff, Forestville Citizens for Sensible Growth vs. Canyon Rock and Sonoma County Board of Supervisors; represented by Shute, Mahaly & Weinberger, LLC (Salmonid protection for Green Valley Creek)

*by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors resolution

Statement of Purpose

- Use of environmentally-sound forestry practices
- Expertise in native and upper canopy trees and their environment
 - Protection of the riparian zone
 - Alternatives to tree removal
 - Prevention of construction trauma
- Public education regarding tree preservation

The increasing development and urbanization of northern California has given my business several dominant themes, including public education and reintroduction of native timberlands. I work with my clients to find a happy balance between the human need for sunlight, safety and privacy and the trees' and shrubs' need for a healthy environment. When possible and appropriate, we implement reforestation in urbanized areas.

My commitment to public education often compels me to "get involved." For example, construction trauma became a major issue in the Russian River region several years ago when a significant number of trees suffered severe shock within 3—5 years of construction work done near them.

In response, I produced a slide show to educate the agencies involved in giving permits, as well as the public in general, about pre-, during and post-construction conditions that have an effect on trees. When requested by the Sonoma County Public Works Department, my presentation to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors resulted in a county ordinance regarding construction standards. It was also used by several homeowners' associations and officials at the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

I am also committed to educating my clients. Prior to any tree work, we discuss objectives and methods. Only when we have reviewed short- and long-term effects of the work do we begin.