

# The Tree Climber

## Darrell B. Sukovitzen

P.O. Box 849  
Guerneville, CA 95446  
(707) 887-1017  
[darrells@sonic.net](mailto:darrells@sonic.net)—CCL #909691

### *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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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—founding member
1988	Camp Meeker Citizens Water Committee—Board of Directors
1987	Save the Guerneville Bridge Committee
1986–present	California Native Plant Society, Milo Baker Chapter—Newsletter Committee
1986	Citizens for Watershed Protection—Executive Board member
1983	Sonoma County Tree Ordinance Drafting Committee
1983–2000	State of California Scenic Highway 116 Advisory Committee*
1981–1985	SoCo State-Mandated Emergency Medical Care Committee—Chair*
1981–1990	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) Sukovitzen 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 Susan Brandt-Holly 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 (Forensic analysis of alleged tree damage)
- (8) Co-plaintiff, Forestville Citizens for Sensible Growth vs. Canyon Rock and Sonoma County Board of Supervisors; represented by Shute, Mahaly & Weinberger, LLC

---

\*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.