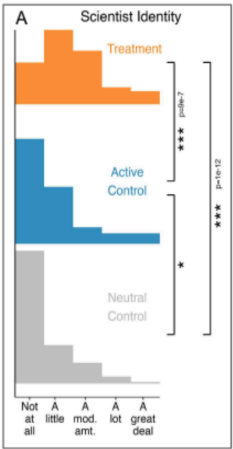




Magic Summary, 2025

Valuescience

This year we conducted our first randomized controlled trial. With it, we evaluated a valuescience-based Inclusive Scientist Identity Intervention (ISI) developed through pilot studies and conversations with thousands of people over more than seven years. In the chart at right, bar height indicates number of participants reporting a strength of scientist identity from “none” (left) to “great deal” (right). ISI recipients (orange) identified more strongly as scientists than did those in active and neutral control groups. Likelihood that this occurred by chance is *one in one hundred trillion!* We presented our findings at Stanford’s “Big Ideas in Medicine” Conference, have submitted a manuscript for publication, and are designing studies to discover if people who receive the ISI become more adept at sciencing, act in ways that measurably improve their and others’ well-being, and recruit others to develop stronger scientist identities.



We also led weekly valuescience discussions in which we engaged more than 200 individuals, renovated our educational signage on the Dish recreational loop used by 500,000 visitors each year, and interacted one-on-one and in groups with a total of 1,000+ individuals to introduce them to valuescience and assist them in developing their ability to present it.



Residential Service Learning Communities

Both Magic residential service learning communities thrived. In Palo Alto 61 residents from 20 countries and 12 states doubled the number with whom we learned, served, and enjoyed in 2024. Twenty-five found Magic through Worldpackers, an organization that connects traveling volunteers with hosts. Openminded and varied in age and background, they’ve been eager valuescience learners and enthusiastic participants in sustaining the Magic community. With glowing reviews, Magic qualified as a Worldpacker “Top Host.”



In Mammoth Lakes, nine residents from two countries and three states created community to provide affordable worker housing with a valuescience theme. Three Palo Alto fellows, 14 Palo Alto residents, the Mammoth fellow and residents, a Magic founding board member, and four Magic affiliates, another doubling of 2024 numbers, joined an Eastern Sierra “advance.”



Stewarding Earth

With generous support from the California Institute for Biodiversity, we grew Silicon Valley Barcode of Life both on the Midpeninsula and in the Eastern Sierra. As one of ~150 scientific partners in the Global Malaise Program, we deployed Malaise traps to capture flying insects at three sites in the Eastern Sierra, and at 12 sites in Stanford’s Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, where we’ve a longitudinal study building on work done by another researcher 50 years ago. A barcode of a specimen in the catch from our Stanford Academic Reserve Malaise trap provided the first confirmation of the presence in North America of an exotic elm leaf miner, the European moth *Stigmella ulmivora* (Nepticulidae). To announce this finding, we coauthored a research note which has been published in the *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington*.



We hand collected ~100 unique specimens in the Mono Basin and another ~500 on lands of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Of perhaps equal or greater importance, we taught dozens of people we met in the field about the value of biodiversity, threats to it, and how we can protect it.

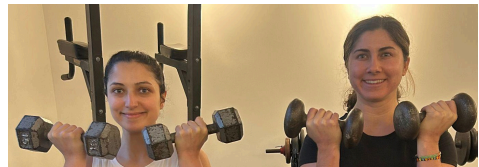


We voucher photographed and tissue sampled for DNA sequencing a portion of Dr. Roland Knapp’s collection of aquatic arthropods from 7,000(!) Sierra lakes. At the request of partners in the California Insect Barcoding Initiative, we completed hypogean trapping at and near the termini of eight High Sierra glaciers. Finally, we’re honored to share coauthorship of “The California Insect Barcoding Initiative: One million barcoded insects reveal biodiversity patterns across California,” in which we report that one-third of California’s insects remain to be discovered and cataloged.

A hundred volunteers gave 600+ hours to plant 200 oaks, irrigate 400, and maintain 2,000. Building on earlier experience planting oaks native to environments like those projected for Palo Alto circa 2100 as a result of climate debasement, we launched a trial of Englemann oaks native to southern California and threatened with extirpation from their current range. In the first three and last two months of the year, we continued to remove 25’ x 25’ barbed wire cattle enclosures from 100+ oaks planted 30 years ago and now able to survive without them.



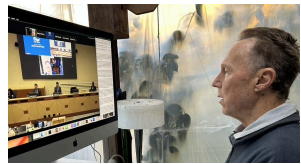
Promoting Health



We guided dozens of clients in personal transformation through healthful life practices. Fellows and affiliates provided 300+ hours of instruction in nutrition, meditation, somatic awareness, hatha yoga, dance, resistance training, cycling, swimming, running, indoor rowing, wilderness skills, and—most important—cultivating love and gratitude.

Cooperating

With *Reduce Waste. Feed People*, we collected more than 26,000 pounds of surplus fresh produce from two dozen California Avenue Farmers’ Market vendors, sorted it and delivered acceptable items to Community Services Agency for distribution to hundreds of hungry fellow humans through their food bank, hot meal, and nutrition education programs.



In partnership with Committee for Green Foothills, Yosemite Rivers Alliance, Mono Lake Committee, and American Bird Conservancy, we researched, authored, and delivered to Palo Alto City Council, San Mateo Board of Supervisors, California Water Board, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, U.S. Congress, and various other federal, state, and local bodies testimony supporting ecologically sound public policy.

We co-produced an Evergreen Park Neighborhood Association (EPNA) block party and co-hosted the 44th annual EPNA picnic, both attended by 100+ neighbors. The Magic Jazz Band played at the EPNA party and picnic and at a fundraiser for Volunteer Dream. They performed *pro bono* at eight charity events sponsored by Hidden Villa, Woodside Elementary School, and Community Services Agency.



Sponsored Affiliate Projects



Escondido Outings Club organized rafting trips for 12 participants on the Tuolumne and American rivers; camping trips along the Pacific Crest Trail, at Shealor Lakes, and at Hidden Villa for 110 people with 190+ nights under the stars; and ski trips to Dodge Ridge, Palisades, and Alpine Valley. Approximately 20% of participants were from populations underrepresented in the outdoor recreation community or were enjoying their first experience of this kind.

Project Green Home is a LEED Platinum, net zero energy Passive House used extensively (4,000 visitors since 2008) to educate about energy efficiency and electrification. PGH has been featured in annual Peninsula Electric Home Tours. In 2025, PGH expanded its educational activities by inviting the public to tour an Accessory Dwelling Unit being constructed using an innovative resource-efficient, cost-reducing framing technology that incorporates insulation and decreases air infiltration.



In Memoriam: Dave Muffly (1965-2025)



Dave was a stalwart Magic collaborator for 36 years. For 12 of these, he was also a Magic resident. Visionary arborist, stellar educator, philanthropic entrepreneur, and beloved friend to many, Dave reshaped landscapes, inspired communities, and planted love—one tree, one heart at a time. With his rare blend of scientific rigor, broad and deep ecological insight, and concern for people and planet, Dave was a powerful force for good. 🌱