THE ASSOCIATES

Staffed by scientists and construction experts, CCA provides canopy access and consultation with regard to site, selection of access options, and costs. Whether you are interested in an extensive system of walkways or a modest observation platform, we can design and build an access system to suit your needs.

BART BOURICIUS, founder of Canopy Construction Associates, is a lecturer/activist in tropical forest natural history and preservation when he is not engaged in construction projects or working as an arborist. He is also a research associate at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, FL. He lives with his wife, Connie, and two sons in Amherst, MA. Email: barth@canopyaccess.com

ROBBIE OATES is an extremely valuable member of the CCA team because of his combined background in climbing, rigging, caving, carpentry, and ropes course construction. He, his wife, Laurie, and their two children live in the Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern North Carolina.
Email: roates@canopyaccess.com

JIM GRAVELY has been working and playing in trees since 1975. He specializes in the construction of unique and custom adventure challenge activities in trees including tree houses, climbing walls, challenge courses, and adventure playgrounds. He and his wife, Janice, live in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Morganton, North Carolina.

DR. MEG LOWMAN is a leading canopy ecologist and is Director of Environmental Initiatives at New College in Sarasota, FL where she lives with her husband and two sons. Her many years of fieldwork have taken her to Africa, the Americas, and the South Pacific. She specializes in the study of plant-insect relationships in the forest canopy.

ED OLANDER is a builder/contractor with a background in arboriculture and wood science. He brings construction trades experience and a love of the outdoors to the associates. He makes his home in western Massachusetts with his wife and grown children.

DR. PHIL WITTMAN is a canopy ecologist with Canopy Quest and a research associate in the Dept. of Research and Conservation at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, FL. He has been involved with research projects for over a decade and has worked in the canopies of Brazil, Peru, French Guiana, Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica and Western Samoa. He and his wife, Jackie, have a house in Orlando, FL and Lima, Peru. Email: cca@canopyaccess.com

Robbie Oates, Bart Bouricius and Jim Gravely alternate as project coordinators. Please contact Robbie Oates or Bart Bouricius for detailed information on canopy construction. Be sure to visit CCA's web site at www.canopyaccess.com or contact us by email for additional information.

CCA INSTALLATIONS

1990 Upper Momon River, Loreto, Peru
1991 Hopkins Forest, Williams College, MA, USA
1992 Hampshire College, MA, USA
1993 Coweeta Hydrological Lab, NC, USA
1994 Jason V Project, Blue Creek, Belize
1994 Mountain Equestrian Trails Lodge, Belize
1994 Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, FL, USA
1995 Millbrook School, NY, USA
1998 Bukit Bangkirai , East Kalimantan, Indonesia
1998 Tiputini Biodiversity Station , Ecuador
1999/2005 EcoTarium, MA, USA
2000 Myakka River State Park, FL, USA
2000/1 Amazonia Expeditions, Loreto, Peru
2002 Univ. of the South, Sewanee, TN, USA
2004 Reserva Amazonica, Madre de Dios, Peru

CANOPY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATES (CCA) is composed of scientists and construction experts. Whether your interests lie in the realm of an extensive or complex canopy access system or a simple observation platform, we can provide a turnkey system from the initial consultation through the design phase to construction as well as maintenance services.

CCA's expertise in construction, arboriculture, and scientific research spans many years. This varied background defines CCA and makes it uniquely qualified to handle projects around the world.

CCA's first design and expedition in 1990 was to the upper Momon River in the rain forest of the Peruvian Amazon. There a walkway system consisting of two platforms connected by a forty-foot cable-supported bridge was constructed.

Canopy walkways have since become valuable tools for education, such as at Williams College and Hampshire College in Massachusetts, where the systems are being used for research in the temperate forest canopies. These facilities also provide opportunities for scientists, teachers, and students to practice aerial research techniques and methodologies that can be used in both temperate and tropical environments.

CCA will work with you to provide a canopy access system to fit your budget. The systems are built of low maintenance materials, but qualified personnel must perform periodic inspections and maintenance.

Cover Photo – Tiputini Biodiversity Station; This page – EcoTarium, Tiputini Biodiversity Station, Bukit Bangkirai, Myakka River State Park

THE CANOPY WALKWAY SYSTEM

DIMENSIONS: Under appropriate conditions, the bridge component of a walkway can typically be up to 100 feet (and potentially longer). The height above ground is determined by the size of the selected trees or by the height of the manmade towers that may be constructed. Observation platforms can be built to any dimension allowed by the architecture of the trees or towers.

SITE: Factors that are critically important at the potential site are the suitability of the trees (species, size, health and architecture), existing and potential environmental impacts, ease of accessibility, and diversity of habitat.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: Materials and hardware used throughout our systems meet a safety design factor of 5:1, i.e., the stress on any component will not exceed one-fifth of its minimum breaking strength. CCA had independent testing performed on hardware to establish or verify minimum breaking strength in order to provide our clients with the safest and most cost effective access systems possible.

MAINTENANCE & LONGEVITY: The galvanized steel cable and hardware that CCA uses have proved long-wearing. Stainless steel cable and hardware is an option. It lasts longer, but is more expensive. Structures built in trees need regular maintenance as the trees grow. We have built structures that have lasted over 25 years with regular maintenance. CCA can provide this service as a separate contractual maintenance agreement.

SECURITY: Safety protocols and good risk management procedures require that walkways be secured against unauthorized use. CCA provides a variety of methods to control access depending upon the client's needs and situation.

Photo by Robbie Oates

SAFETY & TRAINING: During the design phase, appropriate safety features are placed in the system based on the needs of the client. At the conclusion of the construction, CCA provides safety training and instruction in the safe operation and the inspection of the systems.

Canopy Construction Associates

Proveedores de Acceso a las Copas de los Árboles

El personal de CCA, constituido por científicos y peritos de construcción, proporciona acceso a las copas de los árboles y consultoría con respecto a elección de lugar, selección de opciones de acceso y costos. Si está interesado en implementar un sistema extenso de senderos o una modesta plataforma de observación, podemos diseñar y construir un acceso a la medida de sus necesidades.

www.canopyaccess.com
www.canopyaccess.com/Español

Photography by Phil Wittman