



Woodcutting of John Chapman,  
courtesy of J.J. Lippincott Inc.

# Johnny Ipil-Seed News

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## Trees & Peace Corps. Continuing to Serve Together

Seeking greater involvement of private citizens to meet the international crisis and threat of terrorism, the President recently called for doubling the presence of Peace Corps to improve our relations with other nations. One television account featured a Peace Corps volunteer planting a tree, which would have certainly pleased Loret Miller Ruppe, Director of Peace Corps through most of the 1980's and the inspiration for the building TREES calls home. She must be somewhere up there smiling to hear how important her organization has become. It was Loret meeting volunteers and local leaders across 160 developing countries that taught the rest of us about "Peace through Development".

Through all the years that we spent building TREES, we never forgot her vision. Whenever and wherever a Peace Corps volunteer or program director asked anything of us, our response has been quick and enthusiastic. For all of us, it continues to be a most valuable relationship.



Throughout 2001, we had the opportunity to provide in-service training for Peace Corps in the Philippines. We provided a workshop with the participation of 16 volunteers and their counterparts from widely scattered locations across the 7,000 islands. The participants related the staggering problems they meet every day, social as well as technical, trying to develop environmentally beneficial projects. Yet, despite the frustrations, they somehow manage to succeed.

A location was provided by the family of the former provincial governor, a resort near a beach and far away from the distractions (and high prices) of the city. Towering behind us were the barren mountains of Zambales, brown at that time of the year - but with occasional patches of dark green - which is why we came together in the first place. We are trying to get the people of these devastated upland areas motivated to bring the greenery back and to save their homes and source of livelihood.

The concept is working well in this mountainous community. It is called a "forest garden" by Filipinos, who only recently returned to these uplands to rebuild their communities, destroyed by the 1991 volcanic eruption.

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The workshop allowed trainees to wander through participating villages, seeing new species and ways to plant them in various combinations. The fruit here is locally called "bignay" (Asian sour cherry). The light colored fruit is cooked in a sour-tasting soup. Volunteers Laxmi Van Hoffman and Jorgina Daly quickly learned to only eat the dark fruit.

# Planning for 2002 and Beyond

## Our Vision, Our Mission, Our Goals.

Dear Members and Friends,

Yes, our world is getting smaller. "Globalization" is now the accepted catchword. Then, last September 11, we discovered just how small our planet really has become. This makes us think hard about where we go from here.

We've often heard that, of all Earth's species, Man is the only one with the ability, or the desire, to destroy his own habitat. While we have lately concerned ourselves about changes in the climate and rising sea levels, we now hear of the spread of terror, which is in many ways, a measure of the extent of human misery around the world.

We gain hope by recognizing that Man, who has demonstrated his great capacity to do harm, has an even greater ability to rebuild and to heal. Whatever our differences, I think all of us now agree that if there ever was a time that our rapidly shrinking planet needed healing, it's now.

Healing begins with concern for each other and there is growing awareness across our nation and throughout the free world, that somewhere along the way, we've let many of our fellow humans slip below any acceptable standard of existence. We've ignored their cries for too long and now that's coming home to haunt us in ways we're only beginning to understand.

You may say there are so many wounds, so many people in need of our healing efforts and the time left to us to heal these wounds grows ever shorter. How can we make a significant beginning? What can any of us do against this massive, growing, threat? Well, for a start, we offer a program that plants trees. More correctly, we help people trying to survive in the world's most devastated lands restore trees and forests to save their homes.

Is that such a big deal? YES IT IS!

If you've been watching the news, you've seen the uplands of Afghanistan. The threat from there is degraded people. We're working to stop that.

With trees, we bring the people of these lands, here at home as well, the ability to begin the long process of healing and rebuilding their lives.

More important, we offer people who have lost hope, the understanding so necessary if the healing is to begin and that we'll help them do so. How does our program do this? In many ways:

Trees stabilize fragile soils and bring productive life back to the land. Trees replenish underground water reserves. By doing this, **trees relieve the threat of world hunger.** Trees produce a continuous supply of wood, the only fuel available to more than half the people on earth. As new trees grow to replace those cut, they clean the air, so **trees produce an environmentally-friendly alternative fuel.**

Trees provide habitat. They protect the land so that indigenous plants come back. In this way, **trees restore bio-diversity to the land.**

Trees remove CO<sub>2</sub>, the major "greenhouse gas", from the atmosphere, returning it to the soil as humus. That's how **trees reduce the threat of global warming.**

Along with timber, trees produce construction materials, fruits, nuts, traditional medicines and other products for sale or local consumption. That's how **trees give local families a sustainable livelihood.**

Trees shade and cool the land. They clean the air. They improve both living standards and the quality of life. **Trees give hope to people** desperate for answers.

Perhaps most important of all, the trees we plant send a message: they



tell a waiting world that we Americans do care about other cultures and we wish them a real future and a better life. We're willing to work right alongside them and to share the blessings we have been given so that others can also benefit.

Your program is growing rapidly because you, along with socially responsible businesses and foundations, keep us in the field, helping local groups plan and build the projects they need. All this is done because we understand this is a very small planet we all live on together. When a forest catches fire in Sumatra, when landslides bury people in Ecuador, when families are forced off their land into the dumps of Guatemala, it's our family, our backyard that's threatened. It's personal. As our planet grows smaller, we better recognize each other's hopes, fears, needs and problems so we can start the healing.

TREES is making changes to prepare for this challenging future. First, we must improve our ability to communicate. To help people, we must know what they need and they must know about us. We are upgrading systems and bringing in people who know how to listen and how to share information so we can make a difference in the world.

The Loret Miller Ruppe Center is building its pool of useful knowledge so more people can use it. This center will help provide needed facts, materials and resources for those in need.

All this takes funding. We are looking for new sources. We know that environmentally responsible business leaders are especially interested and we're developing programs which allow them to directly participate. We make their support a wise investment in the future. The ones who have already joined us found out that these programs increase market share. Just as important, it builds employee morale. We hope you'll please tell businesses in your area about us.

We're re-designing our home page to make it more relevant to our changing world. We're designing "PSA's" (public service announcements) for the media,

expanding fundraising and raising the bar with our tree planting efforts. So we need your strength, determination and commitment to make all this a reality. Please help us if you can because the trees program needs you. If you have friends who might join, please tell them about what all of us, together can do. Our phone number is: 1-800-643-0001.

We'd like to hear from you.

## Introducing Our New Director of Development

Not "Air Jordan". This is "TREES Jordan" who is no stranger to our work. Mike has worked for TREES as a volunteer in Belize, Honduras and elsewhere. He brings to us impressive skills in communications technology. Mike is already busy on the e-mail to project leaders around the world, finding how to build better projects. Some of his ideas are expressed here.



I am very excited about working here now, especially after finding messages on email by people asking for help with their environment. I typically am not one to back down from challenges and a real motivating factor for me to get involved was when Dave informed me of Julian Cho's untimely death. I met and interviewed Julian for a video on my first trip to Central America. His struggle to help the Mayan people and protect their lands from governments and tree hungry logging companies was a real inspiration for me.

Saving our environment starts with meeting the needs of those who use the land directly. People who live on the land and cultivate it for subsistence are the folks who need our help and, having met some of them, I know they are worth the effort. I look forward to being a part of this exciting organization that opens the door for those in need.

Sincerely,

Mike Jordan  
Director of Development

# Trees for the Future Annual Report 2002

Throughout 2001, TREES continued to build relationships with many new organizations involved in environmentally-sustainable development. These include ICRAF, which conducts field research in agro-forestry, the IED Group in Virginia, which develops agribusiness plans, Land O' Lakes and the Farmer-to-Farmer Program, providing on-site technical assistance to projects in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Jamaica, the Philippines and Indonesia.

The Ethiopia Program has grown into a large organization known as "Greener Ethiopia" with more than 24,000 farm family members. It has developed seedling nurseries producing more than 1,200,000 coffee tree seedlings with an added 400,000 shade trees. A staff technician worked there for four weeks in January with local technicians.

The project received a grant from Thanksgiving Coffee, a specialist coffee roaster in California, to plant a total of 68,000 shade trees. These trees will offset all the carbon dioxide emissions of the coffee company - and also the CO2 generated by brewing all the millions of cups of coffee they sell each year. This pilot project demonstrates there are practical ways for businesses to "offset" the emissions of their operations, reducing the threat of global climate change.



Ed Hoigelle of Panzuma Labs, the "Tallest man in Nicauragua" has agreed to plant a million trees on barren land near the Pacific coast. (above) Inspecting the land with TREES Rep., Roger Karlsen.

The Farmer-to-Farmer program allowed TREES to provide on-site support to a foundation in the Philippines, a farmers cooperative in Jamaica, the Ministries of Education and Natural Resources in Carazo Department of Nicaragua, where one group is already working to plant a million trees this year. TREES now provides in-service training to Peace Corps volunteers, starting with the Philippines, and now El Salvador. We offer experience, seeds of beneficial trees, books and other technical materials.

In Honduras, the program begun by Jaime and Suyapa Bustillo continued in 2001 although the funding grant has ended. It is planting a wide variety of beneficial tree species while working with Peace Corps Volunteers.

A grant from Sisters of Charity in Nazareth in Kentucky made it possible to bring on a full-time representative, Thara Gamero, who is starting new projects in the central and southern districts of Belize.

Changes in personnel include David Mitzel, who has moved to Florida, and Scott Bode, who is now with the US Agency for International Development. Grace and Dave Deppner returned to be more active in program development.

The financial situation at TREES has been a serious concern throughout 2001. Income was low all through the year, possibly due to the recession. While things usually get better by early Fall, the 911 terrorist attack made it worse. Through all of this, TREES continued to develop its programs hoping our members would continue their support. We are pleased to report that by December things were back to normal, probably even a bit better. For this, we thank our good and loyal friends.

Bill Ligon, Executive Director

# Trees for the Future

## Preliminary Income Statement

### For Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2001

**Income**

Donations, individual	\$130,187
Donations, corporate	54,737
Donations, restricted	1,000
Donations, sale of stock	10,921
Donations, in-kind	1,881
Interest earned	47

**Total Income** **\$199,403**

**Expenses:**

**Salaries and Consulting Fees**

Salaries	\$44,320
Consulting	57,538
Benefits	21,301

TOTAL \$121,159

**International Programs**

Travel	\$5,761
Project materials	2,720
Per diem	4,855
On-Site Expenses	\$58,195

TOTAL \$71,531

**Other Programs**

Public Information	\$9,768
Meetings and Seminars	2,174

TOTAL \$11,924

**Building/Office**

Interest on Mortgage	\$10,785
Phone/fax/e-mail	6,453
Utilities	3,431
Taxes	2,648
Maintenance and Miscellaneous	553

TOTAL \$23,870

**Administrative**

Accounting and Bookkeeping	\$12,021
Advertising	1,159
Interest and Bank Charges	6,317
Office Supplies	2,180
Insurance	1,364
Travel and Representation	5,696
Taxes and Miscellaneous	1,580
Fundraising	\$ 13,425

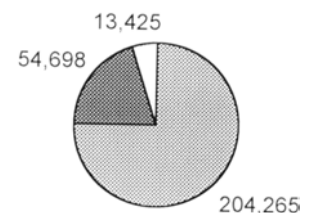
TOTAL \$43,886

**Total Expenses**

**\$272,388**

**Excess (Expenses over Revenues) (\$ 72,986)**

<b>Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$204,265</b>	<b>75.0%</b>
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>54,698</b>	<b>20.1%</b>
<b>Fundraising Expenses</b>	<b>13,425</b>	<b>4.9%</b>



As soon as they built new homes, we helped them begin planting the first trees. With those trees to protect the land, they began adding other species for food, medicine, building materials and a sustained livelihood: a wide range of products now comes steadily from the green patches on those hillsides.

Volunteers at the workshop had the opportunity to meet these community leaders, to learn what hardships they endured, what went right - and what went wrong. They wandered through these villages and saw for themselves how nearly self-sufficient people there are in meeting their food and other needs. They encountered new fruits and vegetables, even small livestock projects, all growing together, all supporting each other. These ideas are spreading from Peace Corps to hundreds of additional villages across the Philippines. The same is true in Honduras where our coordinator Jaime Bustillo assists Volunteers in communities

still trying to recover from the hurricane of 1998.

At the time of this writing, Dave Deppner of TREES is in El Salvador, meeting with staff and Volunteers of Peace Corps there, developing a plan so that TREES can provide seeds, project training materials and in-service training. Nearly half of the 150 Volunteers in El Salvador are involved in forestry, agro-forestry and natural resource management, and environmental education. This offers a wonderful opportunity to assist many hundreds of families needing this sustainable technology.

In 2002 and beyond we intend to take advantage of every opportunity to work with Peace Corps, to expand our ability to serve by continuing Loret's vision of peace through development.



Above: local project leaders, Ellen Awas (left), Ramon Devasa and Gabby Mondragon explain how they succeeded in combining "Ipil-Ipil" Trees, pineapples and papayas on once-barren hillsides.

Left:

As part of the training, in a village called "Loob Bungga" the participants dug and planted a tree seedling nursery that produced more than 8,000 seedlings. By the end of rainy season, villagers had trans-planted all these trees onto nearby slopes.



# PEACE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT

When a community starts working together some great new ideas spin off, as the "GREENER ETHIOPIA" program continues to prove:

(left): Ninety five percent of the health threat to people and animals caused by tsetse flies has been removed from the Gurage Zone as people have joined together to build and maintain traps. Here, group leader Dr. Shiffa is demonstrating to one community how to construct and operate the traps. One trap can capture thousands of flies every day and the people of this Zone are manning hundreds of these traps.



## GREENER ETHIOPIA PROJECT



The women of this community had only one place to bathe and wash clothes. To reach it, they had to climb down a steep path into a narrow ravine. At the bottom was a creek thick with red mud. There was no privacy against passers-by. In order to meet this problem, the organization bought a pump which draws clear water from a nearby spring. They're now building a combination laundry and bathhouse and installing an overhead tank. This inexpensive project means a great deal to the community, allowing the women some privacy - and the clothes are a lot cleaner.



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Greener Ethiopia



## ANOTHER CUP?

THANKSGIVING COFFEE is a specialty roaster in Ft. Bragg, California. Their president, Paul Katzeff, comes up with many exciting ideas to help save the environment.

Over this year, Paul has worked with TREES in developing a plan that offsets all the carbon dioxide emissions of his entire operation - plus those from perking all the millions of cups he sells. He's doing this through a grant that is planting about 42,000 shade trees in East Africa. In recognition of this, THANKSGIVING has received an award from the State of California for his innovative approach.

And more. Paul says his coffee is "bird friendly". Trees provide sanctuary for song-birds migrating from Europe to their winter breeding area. Better coffee, better air to breathe, and a return of the disappearing songbirds—all by planting trees.

Isn't Nature great?

*Johnny Ipil-Seed News* is a quarterly newsletter of **TREES FOR THE FUTURE, Inc.**, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people of developing countries begin environmentally beneficial, self-help projects.

This newsletter is sent to all supporting members of **TREES FOR THE FUTURE**, to inform them of what their support is achieving. If you wish to receive this newsletter, or more information about **TREES**, please contact: **TREES FOR THE FUTURE**

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