



Johnny Ipil-Seed News

The quarterly newsletter of *Trees for the Future*

Spring 2007 Vol. XV, No. 1

The Challenge of Nine Million Trees

Your program keeps growing. In 2006, thanks to your kindness, we were able to help people plant **4,100,000** trees worldwide. In 2007 we are already committed to more than double that effort, with the goal of planting more than **nine million trees!**

Ethiopia: The Building of a Program

Nearly two million of these trees will be in Ethiopia where the Secretary General of the United Nations recently said "This is where poverty and global warming meet!" And so we started off the year by taking a look at how to initiate this program, how we may be able to build on what has been accomplished and how we can then keep it growing.

Fortunately, we already have much of the needed funding to begin. Much of this is possible thanks to the generosity of **Andrew Beath** and his **Earthways Foundation** in California, and of **Dr. and Mrs. Reinhard Hittich** (see picture on page 4) in the Netherlands. They believe, with us, that the only practical way to address the growing threat of global climate change is to return tree cover and forests to the denuded lands of the developing world.

Already one of our board members, **Bedru Sultan**, who is also a leader in **Greener Ethiopia**, is there at work. The more than 23,000 families participating with Greener Ethiopia have developed some important infrastructure in the Gurage Zone, about two hours south of the capital of Addis Ababa, that many will



TREES Technician Gorav Seth leads an agroforestry training session in Tiruvanamalai, India. Read more on page 7.

benefit from.

One family involved in this movement are the Sultans who reside in Qatbure. TREES has been using their land for seedling nurseries and seed production for about three years. Nearby is the Bio Village, a training

Win a Tree Planting vacation - See the Earth Day Challenge page 5.

Johnny Ipil-Seed News is a quarterly newsletter of TREES FOR THE FUTURE, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people of the world's poorest communities to begin environmentally beneficial, self-help projects.

This newsletter is printed by wind energy on recycled paper with soy-based ink and is sent to all supporting members to inform them of recent events, plans, financial matters and how their support is helping people.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. John R. Moore, Dr. Peter Falk, Mr. Oscar Gruspe, Mr. Dave Deppner, Mr. Hank Dearden, Mr. Bedru Sultan Ms. Marilou Herman

FOUNDERS

Dave and Grace Deppner

STAFF

John Leary
Gorav Seth
Corrie Mauldin
Brandy & Hamid Lellou

FIELD TECHNICIANS

Adam Norikane, Central America
Chris Wells, Advisor on Asia
Gabby Mondragon, N. Philippines
Dr. Ron Soriano, S. Philippines
Jorge Betancourt, Honduras
Guillermo Valle, Honduras
Omar Ndao, Senegal
Ruth Coleman, Belize
Eugene Edwards, Belize
Subramanian Periyasamy, India
Eben Mensah, Ghana
Anne Toomey, Volunteer
Matt Gilbride, Panama

For more information, contact:
TREES FOR THE FUTURE
The Loret Miller Ruppe
Center for
Sustainable Development
P.O. Box 7027
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Toll Free: 1-800-643-0001
info@treesftf.org
WWW.PLANT-TREES.ORG

Opinion: And They Say We Have Less Than Ten Years to Change Things?



it was time to look around for something new. Grace and I jumped on the subway, off to see the show.

Grace, who drives pretty well but who would just as soon take a bus, was already preparing her "I told you so's" as we came up out of the station. We found we were already in a line, two or three wide, which wound around the subway entrance, then around the corner and down the street a block, then turned back on itself, right back past the subway and, to a single door of the monstrous DC Convention Center, where people entered - one by one.

This was perhaps the most entertaining and informative part of the entire show: seeing the expressions on people's faces, especially the kids, as they emerged from the subway, squinting into the sunlight and slowly

In late January, the automobile show came to town. It took place on a bright Saturday, and since my old flivver now has 80,000 miles on it, becoming aware of the first challenge they faced - how to get through that door before the show closed for the night.

The line moved surprisingly quickly though, and we were stamped with what seemed to be a red arrowhead - in case we wanted to get out of there for a while and come back in. We soon found getting back out would be an even greater challenge than getting in as we descended to the lower level and saw an even longer line of people waiting to use the "up" escalator.

Conclusion: people looove their cars!

Detroit could care less about the environment, about the overloaded highways, about rising sea levels or drowning polar bears. They've done their market research and it tells them the Hummer was a great idea and people want more of the same.

They're willing to go to ridiculous lengths, including car shows, to prove it. They may be mortgaged up to their eyeballs. They may be eating cat food. But they will stand in line for hours staring at a



John checks out one of ZAP's fun and affordable electric cars at the 2006 Green Festival.

\$60,000 piece of plastic and tin that supposedly gets 17 miles per gallon in town (not in THIS town). Worse yet - I was standing right there with them.

The next thing I observed was that in this hall - an area of six city blocks and two levels high, the hundreds upon hundreds of cars displayed looked amazingly similar. In fact, most of them seemed to be trying to look like Toyotas. And the Toyotas themselves tried to look like last year's Toyotas. Except bigger, with more gadgets to keep you from wandering across lanes or from running into the car in front of you.

Ah, for the days when you drove for yourself and even fixed your own car. Now I'm not telling my age but, when I started driving, I was 14 and there were about 75 million cars in the whole wide world. Since then, I've been to some memorable car shows. I attended one back in the 60's when we got our first look at a Mustang which, at that time, was somewhat more aerodynamically challenged than a wheelbarrow. Then, only a few years back I had a love affair when the Thunderbird was re-invented. But this year? Same old stuff, onward and upward, bigger and more expensive.

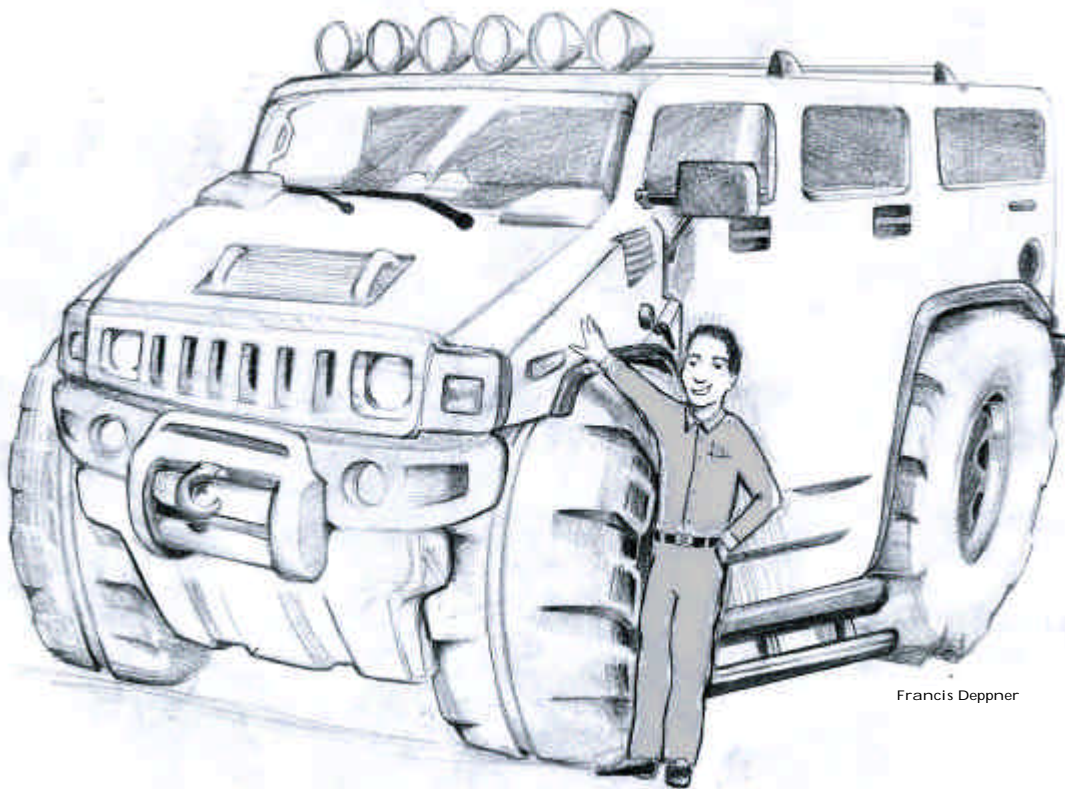
Any concession toward the global energy crisis? Any concern about global climate change? There was something there called a "Mini Cooper," and a few cars that can run on 5% renewable fuel that nobody seemed to care about. Plenty of people looking at a new Camaro that sports a 400 horsepower engine. I can hardly wait to be on the same road with that puppy. I'll show him a thing or three.

Conclusion: Detroit could care less about the environment, over-loaded highways, rising sea levels or drowning polar bears. They've done their market

research and it tells them the Hummer was a great idea and people want more of the same.

Should there be conversations about alternative fuels, clean energy or sequestering carbon emissions, the waters can be quickly muddied by GM, Ford and Exxon-Mobile. And that's how Exxon-Mobil wound up with profits of \$39.5 BILLION in 2006.

Despite all this, some folks out there seem to be looking for something better. Our website gets busier and busier. A great number of private businesses are now supporting our work, making it possible to develop better, more beneficial, projects, sometimes on a coun-



Francis Deppner

try-wide basis, helping more people plant a far greater number of trees that help them - and clean the atmosphere we all share.

With your help, we're out there meeting people, improving our website, showing what's happening to our climate and what your program is doing about that by helping people and the environment. Who knows? Maybe someday people will go to car shows to see how we can live sustainably in a rapidly changing world, how we can survive the crisis we now face. Thanks for all the help you're providing.

The Challenge of Nine Million Trees continued...

from page 1

center established by the Swiss that is well located and with excellent facilities. However, a lack of trainers has currently closed the center. Bedru is looking to the surrounding communities for interest in getting the center up and running again.

Between Qatbure and the Bio Village is a stretch of about eight kilometers, or five miles, that has been completely deforested. Through the middle of this denuded land runs the Wabe-Shebele River, which is displaying what happens to a river when its watershed is deforested. One of our initial goals is to reforest a large part of that land, about 1,200 hectares, or 3,000 acres, over three years. This will largely be accomplished by trainees at Qatbure and BioVillage.

A few kilometers further south is the village of Che'Ha where Greener Ethiopia has developed a large (700 acre) research farm which is demonstrating the benefits of inter-cropping, introducing new crops such as triticale wheat, and confinement-rearing of cattle - which is gaining much attention.

It's from this farm that the brand name "Harmony Farms" first went public with the production and export of organic honey, which has become very popular in Europe. A new design for modern hives has been introduced, maintaining high quality but greatly reducing costs and rapidly expanding production.

Nearby is an additional facility, Farm Afrique, where additional training and demonstrations have been introduced for honey production and livestock management, including a project for the eradication of tsetse flies. This highly practical and cost-effective program, started by another of the program's community leaders, Dr. Shimeles, has reduced the population of tsetse flies in the area by 95%. This program is near the Rift Valley has potential to assist farmers and herdsmen of that area as well.

TREES will soon open an office in a town central to all of these activities: Wolkete. Wolkete is on the main highway and will be a great location to station one of our team leaders. From this central point, the program will be made available to coffee growers cooperatives



*Trees for the Future's Founders, **Grace and Dave Deppner** (left) award a large tree planting certificate to **Greenpower** owners **Reinhard and Katharina Hittich** (right), who are helping plant 2 million trees in 2007.*

who can receive training at the several facilities being developed.

There are hundreds of thousands of coffee growers in the region. Most of these are producing a fine crop on the very lands where coffee was discovered some 3,000 years ago, but world coffee prices have been disastrous for several years.

They are asking our help to plant trees to protect the coffee lands and also for the introduction of new crops, including fruit trees, honey, and even biofuels from crops such as jatropha for local use and sale.

Building this Ethiopia program is the greatest challenge we currently face for 2007 and beyond. Assisting more than a third of a million families, scattered over half the vast land of Ethiopia, means training and supporting dozens of technicians while learning the needs of all these communities and developing ideas so the trees bring them a wide range of benefits, sustainably.

Fortunately, the local people of this region know they must make changes and be prepared to make great sacrifices to give their families a better quality of life. The people of Ethiopia are known for their tolerance and their ability to work closely together. And that, together with your help, is why we know this program will succeed.

Join the Earth Day Challenge - Win a Tree Planting Vacation

Attention Trees for the Future Members and Volunteers!

The threat of global warming, effects of deforestation, and loss of biodiversity have never been more visible than in this past year. It is crucial that we act NOW!

In the spirit of Earth Day we are holding a **competition with a very exciting REWARD!**

Between **International Earth Day (March 20, 2007)** and **U.S. Earth Day (April 22, 2007)** the person who raises the most money through Public Awareness and Education efforts will win:

A Trip with one of our Agroforestry Technicians to Plant Trees in a developing community in one of our programs

If you are interested in participating, send an email to Brandy at communications@treesfff.org

She will send you a short registration form by email. The forms must be returned ASAP so that we have time to send you any promotional and educational materials you may need.

**This Challenge will help Trees for the Future reach our goal of
planting 9 million trees in 2007!**

More from Ethiopia: The Speed of Change

Editor's note: Gorav Seth (see cover story) recently returned from Ethiopia where he made a site visit to project sites:

Every evening while in Butajira, I would go for a walk with my host, Dr Shimeles. A veterinarian by training, he became interested in development work 10 years ago and has since been deeply involved in many projects. He showed me the back edge of town, where a small river, making a slow bend, has cut a deep gorge into the soft rocks. It is an incredibly beautiful and lush valley, with two Jacaranda trees blooming on the edge of a verdant meadow, and the shouts of children playing and bathing. On the sides of the valley, however, you could easily see the cliff and hillside eroding away, with the few remaining eucalyptus trees losing their battle against the wind and water. Dr Shimeles told me that when he was a child, this area was covered in thick forests and was full of animals. For fun, kids would sneak about, trying to surprise the animals and flush them out, in order to watch them flee. Since then, rapid population growth and deforesta-

tion have destroyed both the habitat for the animals and the ecology on which local people depend. It is amazing how quickly this has taken place, within the scope of 30 years. We hope that in another 30 years, we will be able to see the return of the old forest, and marvel over the return of the native fauna.



Update from Sierra Leone - Blood Diamonds and Soul Trees

The recently released film 'Blood Diamond,' starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Djimon Hounsou, gives us a glimpse of the civil war that began in Sierra Leone in 1991 sparked by massive corruption in the trading of diamonds and mineral resources. If you listen closely, this film also whispers of the ongoing tragic theme that engulfs many African nations in their fight over mineral wealth and depleting natural resources.

American media gave us brief coverage of this war during the fighting, followed by a few articles detailing the lives of child soldiers forced to commit atrocities. Then, silence. The struggle in Sierra Leone, like those of Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, and others, was forgotten. Now 15 years after the conflict began, Sierra Leone continues to be stripped of its vast mineral resources, millions of people are displaced, and children, without families, struggle to survive.

So what is the solution to this country's legacy of corruption and violence? We at TREES do not pretend to have the answer to this difficult question. However, we do know that the citizens of Sierra Leone can neither eat diamonds, cook with diamonds, nor grow diamonds in their fields. Diamonds will not quench their thirst, feed their livestock, nor educate their children. And as they now know, they will never see the money that is generated by these diamonds. Because of this, we have begun encouraging local groups to look beyond "the glimmer" to the sustainable use of other natural resources that have a vastly greater benefit for securing their future.

Childhelp Sierra Leone (CSL) is one such organ-

However, we do know that the citizens of Sierra Leone can neither eat diamonds, cook with diamonds, nor grow diamonds in their fields.

ization that believes that the future of its children lies in educating them about sustainable agriculture and economic activities. Sixteen youth have been trained

in tree planting and they continue to train others. CSL works in 26 villages within three chiefdoms planting trees along roads and hill-sides. Their tree planting activities have had a positive impact for the communities and environment. "Trees are

wind and fire breakers and stop the dust alongside the road. We have seen the return of native plant species with improved wildlife activities," says **Kaprie J G Thoronka**, Director of Childhelp Sierra Leone. The formation of committees to plant trees has also spawned a village development committee and water and sanitation committee which has led to education and improvement in hygiene, sanitation, management of wells, and other health concerns.

Prior to the war, Childhelp was founded to help children who had been abandoned and abused; TREES began planting trees with them in the early 90s. Now Childhelp works with more than 200 children that are victims of the war. Over the last 12 years, through nearly a decade of civil war, Childhelp orphans and their communities have planted 10,000

trees. We find this extraordinary. Of these, about 2,500 trees have survived the turmoil. The children of Sierra Leone, who have experienced the extreme horrors of war, are learning that working on the land with your hands, not only heals the land, but it also heals the soul.



Youth leaders repair a well in one of Childhelp's village nurseries.

From the Field in India

TREES Technician Gorav Seth recently finished a three week trip through India. Here are his thoughts:

I have been visiting project sites and partner organizations in southern India, firming up old relationships and developing new ones with numerous farmers and organizations. With them, we will help to plant one million trees here in the coming year. The scale of India at times seems to dwarf individual endeavors, but collectively these passionate and committed individuals are bringing sustainable development to those who need it most. These groups are all focused on rural development and the environment, and, with the support of Trees for the Future, will be implementing many agroforestry and reforestation projects in the coming year.

It is never easy to travel through India, and the smaller towns require a dedicated effort to reach. Busses are crowded and average around 40 km / hour (~25 mph). And, as this is the wedding season, rooms can at times be extremely hard to find. In total I met with over 14 organizations based in six different regions of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, traveling over 65 hours on busses and ten hours on trains in 21 days.

These organizations are tackling some of India's toughest problems, and are bringing greatly needed support and training to rural communities. I met farmers who are increasing their earnings by incorporating agroforestry and organic methodologies into their systems. Their savings are often realized from not needing to purchase expensive agrochemicals. I met with women's groups that are working on developing collective agriculture plots. I saw projects focused on river protection, mangrove afforestation, protecting and promoting sacred groves of trees planted around temples, conserving traditional knowledge of medicinal plants and cropping systems, and developing backyard horticulture and green tree-rich villages.

Farming Systems:

Farming in India is divided between irrigated areas and drylands, which often lie directly adjacent to one another. Irrigated lands are characterized almost entirely by smallholdings, with intensively farmed plots of

land ranging from less than half an acre to a couple of acres. Drylands are expansive, mostly treeless landscapes, with the exception of the occasional mesquite or acacia. During good rains, these areas are used for planting annual crops, typically groundnuts (peanuts) while during dry times they are heavily grazed and, if trees are present, are used for gathering firewood.

It is amazing to see lush green fields bordered by acres of scrubby wasteland. However, these wastelands could, even without irrigation, be much more productive than they currently are by incorporating agroforestry systems. They could be producing food and fodder, while improving the quality of the soil and increasing water infiltration, all by planting the right kind of trees.



This jasmine farmer shows moringa and leucaena trees he is planting among his jasmine in Karvellam Patti, Tamil Nadu.

What is lacking in these communities is knowledge, training, and the seeds to grow the right types of trees - resources which TREES is now providing.

Honduras: 3.2 Million Seeds Distributed

In late February, Corrie Mauldin, our newest technician, traveled down to Honduras for a week to work with another new employee of Trees for the Future, Central American field representative, Jorge Betancourt. Corrie traveled from San Pedro Sula to Siguatepeque to Tegucigalpa - the capital - and Santa Barbara. Along with Jorge, Corrie made great strides with the government of Honduras and FUNDARBOL, a local non-profit, to make our 2007 project to plant 1.5 million trees throughout Honduras a reality.

Corrie and Jorge met with six Peace Corps Volunteers in Siguatepeque who had just received seed from TREES and were excited about starting their nurseries and participating in the upcoming technical workshop on bareroot planting and nursery maintenance.

In Tegucigalpa, Jorge and Corrie collaborated with Guillermo Valle, a hard-working entrepreneur who runs a local non-profit, FUNDARBOL, which oversees eight nurseries that have used seed from Trees for the Future for previous projects. Guillermo has also offered Jorge office space in his newly constructed building to work on the 2007 reforestation project.

While in the capital, Jorge and Corrie met with the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, Jorge Palma. Palma agreed to help fund

38 percent of the project - making this the first time TREES has financially collaborated with a local government to implement a national reforestation project. We welcome such strong local commitment! Furthermore, Patricia Alonzo, with the Office of the First Lady, who runs the Programa Escuela Saludables, or the Healthy Schools Program, also agreed to support the project in kind - printing 5,000 agroforestry posters



TREES Central America Coordinator, Jorge Betancourt (left), delivers seeds to Honduran Deputy Minister of the Environment, Jorge Palma.

to give to local communities.

On their way to Santa Barbara, Jorge and Corrie were able to meet with representatives of 146 municipalities involved in the Health Schools Program, initiated to improve the health of school children by providing more nutritious meals. According to the Office of the First Lady, 24 percent of elementary school children are suffering from malnutrition. All 146 representatives said they were eager to join the project by starting tree nurseries in their own communities to help increase the fertility of their soil and provide them with sufficient fuelwood. With the help of these community leaders, up to 300 tree nurseries will be started in the next two months!

In the district of Santa Barbara, Jorge and Corrie met with local agriculture technician, Roy Lara. Roy took them to Finca Buenous Aries, an environmental and economically viable coffee farm near Trinidad, that is proving to be an amazing example of agroforestry. Seventy-five percent of its coffee is ecologically grown, certified by the Rainforest Alliance, an



A Honduras Peace Corps Volunteer receives seeds from Jorge and seed supplier Oscar Ochoa of SETRO.

Honduras: 3.2 Million Seeds Distributed continued

organization which certifies those farming operations which take conservation and biodiversity into consideration. The other 25 percent is organically certified. Shade trees such as San Juan (a local broadleaf), Leucaena, and Mahogany help to contour the steep landscape and fix nitrogen in the soil, as well as provide timber and other products. On one hillside seven-year-old Acacia trees grow from seed provided by Trees for the Future. Banana and other fruit trees also stand with the coffee, giving the farm's hillsides a unique mosaic of patterns and colors. The technical training workshops for the 25 individuals from Trees for the Future, the Peace Corps, FUNDARBOL and other local technicians involved in the 2007 reforestation project will be held at Finca Buenous Aries at the beginning of April in order to share techniques and best practices.



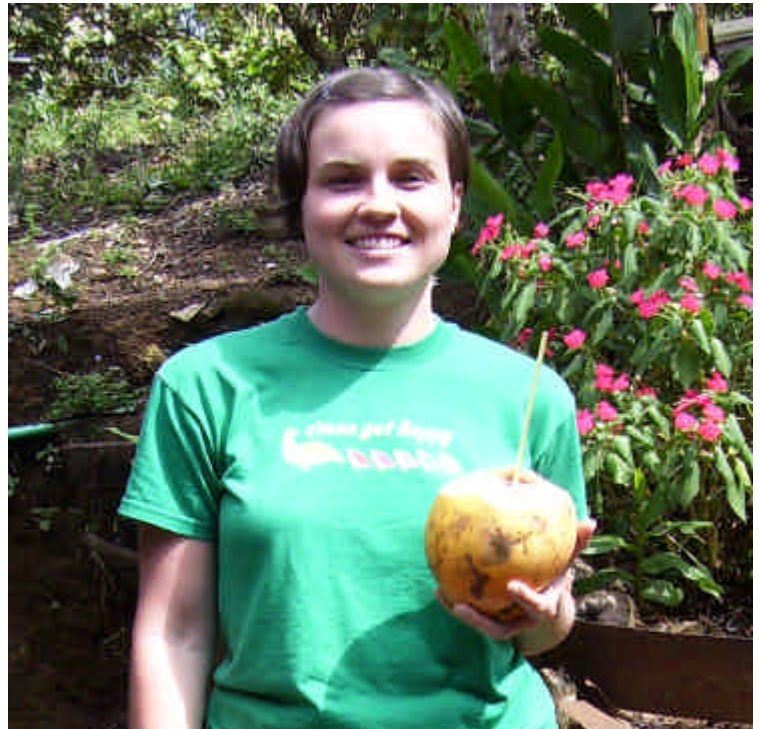
Workers clearing weeds around seedlings planted on mountainsides through collaboration with a local zinc mining company.

Introducing Corrie Mauldin

After meeting TREES staff at their booth at the DC Green Festival last October, Corrie Mauldin joined the team in mid-December. Corrie is currently working on the TREES project in Honduras and organizing a trip to East Africa for this fall to provide support for new TREES projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Corrie lived in Cameroon as an agroforestry agent in the Peace Corps. She enjoyed her work immensely, traveling from village to village training small-scale cocoa farmers on organic pesticide use and various sustainable farming practices.

When she returned to the US in 2000, she held various field positions in the US, from collecting fish data in the Bering Sea to eradicating invasive species in Washington State. She holds a BS in biology and a master's degree in environmental science and policy from Clark University in Massachusetts. Originally from the West Coast, she enjoys hiking, biking and traveling.



Corrie enjoys a coconut during her recent work in Honduras.

Green Businesses

The businesses that support us ARE NOT evil corporations trying to make up for their slave labor practices and abuse of the environment. They ARE, on the other hand, progressive businesses led by responsible leaders who recognize that businesses must play an integral role in saving the planet. They recognize that we cannot sit back and expect someone else to clean up this global mess we have collectively created.

In addition to helping plant millions of trees, TREES' Plant-a-Tree partners are also making tremendous efforts to minimize their ecological footprint. Many have already switched to alternative energy sources, and all of them use recycled materials and minimize their paper, plastic and energy use. They are aware of the origins of the products they buy and many support Fair Trade and locally-made products.

In addition to planting millions of trees, our Plant-a-Tree partners are doing some incredible things. Here are some examples:

- **Greendimes.com** has helped their members stop over 150,000 pounds of junk mail
- **ZAP** (Zero Air Pollution), a world leader in advanced transportation, is promoting and selling vehicles like fuel cell and hybrid cars
- **James Toyota**, in Flemington, New Jersey, is a unique, eco-friendly automobile dealership that has installed recycling and energy efficiency features that earned it an EPA award
- **Ecoist.com**, **NoSweatShop.com** and the **Oregon Soap Company** are examples of Plant-a-Tree partners who are marketing environmentally-friendly products
- Coffee companies, such as **Café Imports** and **Old Bisbee Roasters**, are now working primarily with shade-grown coffee that is better for the both the coffee farmers and the environment
- Yoga practitioners such as **Anita McCann Yoga**, **Bo Tree Bodymind Center**, **Jade Yoga**, **Karma Yoga Project**, **Karmapalooza**, **Total Harmony Yoga**, and **YogAdventures**, in line with their desire to tread lightly on the earth, have also become major supporters
- **airforce Nutrisoda**, a line of sodas with natural fruit flavors and zero sugar, caffeine, sodium or aspartame, is helping make the planet a better place by encouraging students to take an active role in tree planting through the **Fresh Air Tour**
- **Greenpower**, a producer of herbal medicines, organic foods and other health products located in the Netherlands, has pledged to support the planting of 2 million trees this year! And the list goes on and on.

We are proud to be the tree planting partners of such a diverse and honorable group of businesses. Find their links on our Partnerships page <http://www.plant-trees.org/partnerships.htm>. Support them. Promote them. Tell your friends about them. And when you see them, be sure to tell them TREES sent you.

Go to the 'Partners' page at Plant-Trees.org to learn more about:

Acorn Media
Alternative Treatment International
Anita McCann Yoga
Bo Tree Bodymind Center
Café Imports
Community Printers, Inc.
Dream Mullick
Ecoist.com
Free Recycling.com
Fresh Air Tour
Greenpower
Green With Envy
GreenDimes.com
Hazelnut Kids
Inn Serendipity
Jade Yoga
James Toyota - NJ
Junk to Jewels
Karma Yoga Project, The
Karmapalooza
Living Tree Paper
MojoCoffee
Natural Oasis Landscaping
Nosweatshop.com
Nutrisoda - Fresh Air Tour
Old Bisbee Roasters
Oregon Soap Company
Portland Roasting
ProgressiveKid
Recycled Products Cooperative, The
Rhythm Inlet
Sesa Tea
Simmons Natural Bodycare
Skytone Printing and Graphics
Spooky Tooth Cycles
Support with 1040.com
Total Harmony Yoga
Verde Energy
Volkswagen
Wildland Adventures
Working Assets
YogAdventures
ZAP

Snapshot from Nicaragua: They Asked for Trees

As part of her master's program at American University and Universidad para la Paz in Costa Rica, Anne Toomey spent much of last summer working with communities in Nicaragua. Here is her story.

Last summer I received a grant to conduct environmental research in the small, rural community of El Arenal, Nicaragua. I arrived with proposal in hand, a computer full of information on how to conduct participatory research - and not a clue how to get started. I spent the first few weeks walking up and down the dirt roads of the community, baking bread with the local women, and chatting with whomever was around to chat with. Mornings passed slowly by with a cup of sugared coffee and Grandma Maria telling me the stories of her life. Sometimes I would get up early and work the land with the farmers. My techniques were often wrong, but they would just laugh and show me the right way again and again. In the afternoons I would visit new friends that I had made in the community - housewives, farmers, students, pastors. We would sit and sip fresco and I would ask them about how things were and they would tell me how things should be. In the evenings I would go to meetings of all kinds. Student meetings, religious meetings, AA meetings, youth meetings, and commu-

nity meetings.

It was during one of these meetings that a group of young people decided that they wanted to do something to improve the deteriorating environmental situation in their community. Like many of the community members that I had spoken with, they were concerned with the recent increase in illegal logging in the region. They blamed deforestation for the change in rainfall patterns, the erosion of the hill-sides, and the reduced fertility of their lands. They wanted to plant trees and they asked me to help them. Trees for the Future sent us seeds and educational materials, and with the help of Donald, a local agronomist, we went to work.



Above: Anne Toomey was one of TREES' Volunteers of the Year in 2005.

Below left: Working with the community of El Arenal to start a nursery.

Below right: Donald Pérez Gutiérrez, Anne's research assistant, is a trained agronomist who is helping the people of El Arenal to plant 500 trees.



West Africa: Bridging the Divide Between Senegal and Mali

We repeatedly say that one of the greatest roles Trees for the Future plays in the global effort to reforest the world's degraded lands is that are able to distribute important information to the people who need it most. While Mali and Senegal are neighbors on the map, our project sites in these two countries are separated by over 600 miles. BUT, our field reps are bridging the divide to find agroforestry technology that will save their communities from the encroaching desert.

One Saturday morning early last January, Mohamed Traore, an agroecologist working with TREES and the **Association Malienne pour la Conservation de la Faune et de l'Environnement (AMCFE)**, boarded a bus. His destination: Kaffrine, Senegal where TREES' Field Rep Omar Ndao is making a name for himself through the successful agroforestry and reforestation projects he is leading. Because Senegal is the size of South Dakota and Mali is nearly twice the size of Texas, Mohamed's trip lasted a whopping 48 hours!

While the trip alone is a story in itself, the most important part of his voyage was what Mohamed found when he arrived: the 25 villages Omar worked with to plant a quarter of a million trees in 2006. Where there were once just degraded farmlands, trees now stand. Stands of *Acacia nilotica* (picture below) and over 20 other species prove that success is possible in the world's arid lands.

This success in Senegal is not going unnoticed. Peace Corps, which has been a part of this project since the beginning, is now sending five additional volunteers to aid with the agroforestry extension efforts in the area. Senegal's Ministry of the Environment and its Sector of Forestry are also both visiting our project sites on a regular basis.

Mohamed left Senegal with a dufflebag full of seeds, pictures of new agroforestry techniques, and an experience he will now turn into grassroots action in Mali.



*Above: Omar (right) and Mohamed visit fields where multipurpose windbreaks are improving vegetable production. Below: Omar (right) visits a project site where 4-year old *Acacia nilotica* trees are bringing life back to what was once degraded farm.*

Bridging the Divide continued

The *New York Times* recently highlighted successes in combating desertification in Niger with reforestation. We are seeing the same in Senegal and hope to build to that level of success in Mali. With the efforts of leaders like Omar and Mohamed, TREES program will ultimately plant as many as a half million trees along the southern fringe of the Sahara Desert this year.

In addition to our valuable partners in these projects, including the **US Peace Corps** and **Association Malienne pour la Conservation de la Faune et de l'Environnement**, we also thank our generous supporters, including **Acorn Media**, **GreenDimes.com**, and **Skytone Printing & Graphics** (see article page 10 for more info).



TREES Field Rep, Omar Ndao (right) has helped this local farmer to establish a living fence that protects his fields from grazing animals and also produces 100% of his own fuelwood.

TREES' Technician Honored

TREES technician **John Leary** recently received a Humanitarian Award from **OIC International** and **USAID** for his work in West Africa. John has been able to expand programs that replicate successful agroforestry projects on a growing scale. His work in the region began in 2001 when he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal. As TREES' International Programs Manager, John has managed to build a West Africa program that will plant as many as 500,000 trees in 2007.

This honor was specifically awarded because of his work with OICI and USAID's **Farmer-to-Farmer** program in Mali, West Africa. John assisted OIC Mali twice in 2006 by delivering nearly 60 days of on-site assistance in March, August, and September. His work has directly resulted in significant increases in the amount of vegetables produced and the number of trees planted by local communities, as well as greater adoption of soil conservation techniques.



2006 Annual Report

2006 was a year of rapid growth for TREES. We saw a large increase in membership and support, especially from private foundations and businesses, both in North America and in Europe. We also received an increasing number of requests for help to begin projects.

Public Awareness: Most especially, we have seen an enormous increase in public concern for the environment. The September 2005 devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, Al Gore's movie 'An Inconvenient Truth' in 2006, and the 2007 United Nations Climate Change Convention in Paris have all sparked intense public concern about the issues of climate change and the role trees play in removing carbon from the atmosphere.

While we point out that trees are planted in your global program to address a number of important economic, environmental and social issues, none of them are planted specifically to offset climate change. And yet, by the end of 2006, your organization had helped people around the world to plant almost 50 million trees which, along with other benefits, annually sequester some 1,300,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

People's concern over global warming trends were reflected in the increase in visits to our website plant-trees.org. Over 24,000 visits were recorded in 2006. Many visitors became members, including many businesses (see page 10).

Financial: This increase in membership has resulted in an increase in financial support of more than 73% from 2005, to over \$500,000. Much of this came at or near the end of the year, to be used in expanding the program in the 2007 planting season.

Program Activities: In 2006 the program assisted people in 43 developing countries to plant more than 4,100,000 trees. Our staff provided 229 days of on-site training and planning assistance in Haiti, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, Mexico, Senegal, Mali and the Philippines. Additionally, we have been able to increase the diversity of our projects, now with seeds from some 23 species of trees available through our Maryland office where, in 2006, we were able to ship more than 750,000 seeds to communities around the world requesting our help.

Technology: A second printing of the Agroforestry Training Manual was sent to hundreds of additional community leaders and Peace Corps volunteers. Many of these leaders have now received their Certificates of

Completion in this course. Our popular posters describing the many benefits of tree planting, earlier printed in English, French and Spanish, are now being made available in Haitian Creole, Amharic, Wolof and other languages.

John Leary's efforts in Senegal and Mali have resulted in the planting of 300,000 trees, including *Jatropha curcas*, which produces large quantities of oil which can easily be refined into fuel. TREES is earning a reputation of leadership in clean energy development.

Alliances: We continue to work together with other organizations concerned about the continuing devastation of lands in the developing world, allowing us to envision a rapid expansion in 2007. New organizations include **AMCFE** in Mali and **FUNDARBOL** and **SETRO** in Honduras. In Senegal and Honduras, Peace Corps is providing volunteers to assist the new communities starting projects.

Personnel: Over 2006, it became apparent that our biggest challenge for the immediate future is finding and supporting good people. We are already committed to plant more than nine million trees in 2007! To achieve this, while providing the participants the technical support they need, we expanded our staff in 2007, hiring **Brandy Lellou**, **Gorav Seth** and **Corrie Mauldin**. Brandy is developing programs for water purification and conservation. Gorav is building the program for South Asia while Corrie, with Bedru Sultan, is coordinating the several programs in East Africa.

We began 2006 with six local representatives in the Philippines, Honduras, Belize, India, Senegal, and Ghana. By the end of the year we had nearly doubled this with permanent representatives also in Cameroon, Panama, Mali, and Ethiopia. In the year ahead, we look forward to having at least 25 people working full time in these developing communities, supported by at least eight staff technicians.

As scientists pointed out at the recent UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, at least 80% of the threat of global warming is caused by human activity (or, as we see it, the lack thereof). They also stated that we have at best a decade (some say six years) to make the needed changes. Your program is proving that it is possible to save our environment and turn away the threat of global warming. Please keep helping - and tell friends about TREES.

2006 Preliminary Financial Statement

Income

Individual Donations	248,510
Corporate Gifts	104,143
Foundation Grants	148,735
Other (Interest Earned)	1,071
TOTAL INCOME	\$502,459

Expenses

Salaries & Benefits:

Salaries	110,994
Consulting Fees	2,000
Training	2,965
SSS, SUTA, other taxes	10,524
Health Insurance	11,865
Other Benefits	3,382
Total	\$158,472

International Programs:

Int'l Travel & Related	12,357
Perdiem & On-Site Expenses	31,591
Support: Extension Technicians	11,414
Project Materials	11,642
Phone, E-Mail, Website	10,775
Total	\$ 77,779

Public Awareness Program:

Phone, Fax, E-Mail	7,324
Travel, Seminars, Workshops	12,071
Postage	12,856
Printing	6,902
Total	\$41,143

Office Expenses:

Phone, Website, E-Mail	7,325
Supplies	6,110
Bank Charges	1,430
Bank Charges & Service Fees	1,915
Equipment Purchase & Repairs	471
Travel	2,400
Total	\$19,651

Building Expenses:

Property Taxes & Insurance	8,119
Mortgage Debt Service	13,873
Depreciation	5,697
Building Repairs	2,306
Utilities	4,426
Total	\$ 33,421

Fundraising Expenses:

Postage	4,948
Printing	4,390
List Rentals	1,620
Total	\$10,958

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$341,434

Balance Sheet

Assets:

Checking/Savings	204,453
Building	176,664
Other Assets	403
Total	\$381,820

Liabilities:

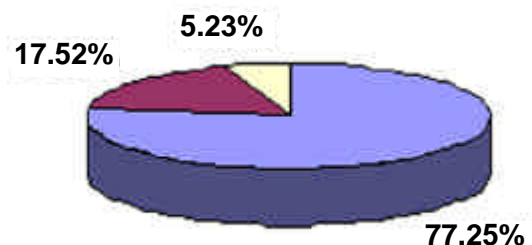
Total Current Liabilities	11,333
Long Term (Mortgage)	166,678
Total	\$178,011
Retained Earnings	42,474
Net Income	161,035

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

\$381,820

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES:

Project-Related	77.25%
Administrative	17.52%
Fundraising	5.23%



Inside

**Win a Tree Planting Vacation
with our Earth Day Challenge
Learn more on page 5.**

- p. 1 The Challenge of 9 Million Trees**
- p. 2 Opinion: Ten Years to Change Things?**
- p. 5 Earth Day Challenge - Win a Vacation**
- p. 5 The Speed of Change**
- p. 6 Blood Diamonds and Soul Trees**
- p. 7 From the Field in India**
- p. 8 3.2 Million Seeds in Honduras**
- p. 9 Introducing Corrie Mauldin**
- p. 10 Green Businesses**
- p. 11 Nicaragua: They Asked for Trees**
- p. 12 West Africa: Bridging the Divide**
- p. 13 TREES Technician Honored**
- p. 14 Annual Report & Financial Statement**

THANK YOU, EVERYBODY, for making 2006 a very successful year. We especially wish to mention the kindness of the following friends: Dr. & Mrs. Reinhard Hittich, Acorn Media, Bolton Family Fnd, Watersheds Fnd., C. Minor Barringer, Honey Hollow Fnd., Schwab Fund, Stanley Rajnak, Moore Family Fnd. International Fnd., Garry Trudeau & Jane Pauley, Nulux Inc., David Leithauser, International Navigation, Willa Baum, Andrew Beath, Working Assets, New England BioLabs, Aid to Africa, Rock the Earth, Community Partners, Green Dimes.com, Tryon Family Trust, Charles Delmar Fnd., Barrington Communication, Danny Levin, Hope Mauran, Environmetrics, Inc., Ronald Crosier, Community Fnd., Middlecott Fnd., William Stephens, Karl Kohls, Marc & Ruth Dundon, Charles & Kimberly Wheatley, Mary Drazy, John Purcell, Judith Elliot, Power & Twersky, Music Matters, Marjory Roswell, Max Finger, Mirka Knaster, Lola Lloyd Horwiz, Alexander Book Co., Steve Hopkins, Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Nancy Accola, Kathlyn Hendricks, Carolyn Heller, Mevatek Fnd. Nature's Creation, Dr. Daniel Barry, Angel Rosenthal, William Blohm, T. Dixon Long, Susan Cooper, Spring-creek Fund., Cottonwood Fnd., Leah May, Miriam Jencks, Glickenhau Fnd., Ed Vink, Timothy Stillman, Sandra Legler, Debbie Kaminski, John Haas, and Andrew Heffernon.



Loret Miller Ruppe Center
P.O. Box 7027
Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

Address Service Requested

Address change ?
Duplicate Mailing?
 Change as shown
 Remove from List
Mail Changes or Call
800-643-0001

Printed by wind energy on recycled paper with soy ink

