



Trees, animals, birds, plants, forests, mountains, lakes and rivers — everything that exists in Nature are in desperate need of our kindness, of the compassionate care and protection of human beings. If we protect them, they in turn will protect us.

- Amma

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GreenFriends is a global grassroots environmental movement which promotes environmental awareness and local participation in conservation efforts throughout the world.

GreenFriends is one of the projects of [Embracing the World](#), a not-for-profit international collective of charities founded by internationally known spiritual and humanitarian leader, Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma)

To join the Pacific Northwest GreenFriends Litter Project, write Karuna at karunap108@comcast.net

Tree Planting A Birthday Gift for Amma



Pacific Northwest devotees decided to honor Amma's 64th birthday by planting at least 64 trees in the seven weeks between the last part of September and November 9th. Satsangs and individuals all over the region enthusiastically participated in the project. We quickly surpassed our 64 trees goal. Soon the total was over 100, and then it surpassed 200. Our final total was 309 newly planted trees.

Happy Birthday Amma!

This issue of the PNW GreenFriends Newsletter will be dedicated to sharing the tree planting reports of individuals and satsangs.



Tree Planting

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Vancouver:



October 24, Vancouver Satsang planted 20 trees, Large Leaf Maples and Firs for the most part. They also planted four shrubs. They plan to return every month to volunteer with the District municipality in planting trees and shrubs.



[Douglas Fir](#)



[Maple](#)

Tree Planting

Vancouver, BC:

Rajeshwari lives part of the year in Vancouver and part in Quebec. She planted 26 Cedar trees on her Quebec property (plus 56 shrubs).



Tree Planting

Mission, BC:

Shyama and her daughter Ameya from Misson, BC (near Vancouver) planted 3 trees and a Rose flower bush for Amma's Birthday in their yard. She said: "We planted one tree for each member of our family plus one for Amma- one Red Japanese Maple tree for Ameya's dad who passed away last year, one small Fir tree for Ameya and a Cedar for myself. We also planted a red rose bush in front of our home for Amma."



Tree Planting

Vancouver, BC:

Veda planted a Pear tree (plus 2 fir shrubs).



Victoria, BC:

Shari and Richard from Denman Island (near Victoria) planted 4 Douglas firs.



Tree Planting

Victoria, BC:

David (Srikanth) planted five trees - Pear, Oak, Maple, Silver Fir, and a mystery baby tree. Several satsang members worked with him. He plans to continue planting monthly. He hopes to plant in India and elsewhere next year..



Tree Planting

Victoria, BC:

Vijaya and John planted an Oak tree.



Su planted a fig tree. She said: I chose a fig tree because it can also provide food....and help with "buy/eat local" and sustainability issues. The tree is in my chicken run so the "girls" provide fertilizer for it!



Tree Planting

Salt Spring Island, BC:

Salt Spring Satsang felt inspired, along with the other PNW satsangs, to plant some trees in honour and celebration of Amma's birthday this year.

We took the opportunity to make our group offering with a potlatch social afterwards.

We congregated, bringing trees, shovels, and food. We planted some big leaf maple trees from seeds we saved, a European elder berry, Japanese maples, and a weeping willow, along with a few others.

We have deer here on Salt Spring, so we had to make a little fence for each tree planted outside the garden, to protect it until it grows tall and strong.

After working for a couple of hours we chanted the 108 names together, and then we all spread a handful of dried Devi Bhava petals while chanting "Om Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu."



Tree Planting



[Elder Berry](#)



[Japanese Maple](#)



[Weeping Willow](#)

Tree Planting

OREGON

Portland:

On November 4th, a beautiful Oregon Fall Day, nearly 100 volunteers planted 649 trees and shrubs in less than 3 hours! The work party was organized by Friends of Trees. Eighteen of Amma's Portland Satsang members participated in that work party and planted 79 of the trees including Western Red Cedars and Cascaras.

The weather cooperated and while it was a bit chilly, it was dry! Our satsang had so much fun planting together that they have decided to gather again next month and hope to do tree planting seva on a monthly basis moving forward.



Tree Planting



Tree Planting



Tree Planting



Other Portland Contributors



Nicolas planted a Galaxy Magnolia tree. He tried to take a photo of the tree but his daughter Lilly Me let him know what/who was most important!

Adrienne and her daughter Zuma planted a maple tree.



Tree Planting

Bend, OR:

These trees were planted by Shivani, her husband (Don), and daughter (Praseetha) They named the Colorado Spruce “Amrita” and the Weeping Cedar “Nataraja.” They gave both trees drinks of Amma’s blessed water.



Tree Planting

WASHINGTON

Shelton, WA:



Living here in the PNW we are constantly reminded of the presence of trees. Our state's nickname, "The Evergreen State". Our satsang location, Shelton, is nicknamed "Christmas Tree Town". As I write this, the evidence of the season change as the leafed trees are beginning their letting go process. The neighboring Fir and Cedar trees will remain green, just a few needles will drop. The deciduous trees, well their leaves float away ever so freely. Observing this process brings contemplation to the process of letting go, and how the structure of the tree remains, yet it physically looks so different from just a few weeks ago.

Last Saturday, October 28th, here in Shelton the weather was almost like summer, mid 70's. Our satsang gathered to plant trees. We so didn't need coats, or rainboots, wow, the sky sparkled blue, and the sun shone so bright! It was one of those magical days when nature and reverential presence was ever palpable. Our group gathered around the newly arrived Western Red Cedars. (These were purchased from a DNR farm outside of Tumwater. The property of the farm encompasses 270 acres. They grow a variety of trees to accommodate what grows in the different regions of the state. Many of their customers are foresters who purchase thousands to support their timber industry.)

Here we are, the tree satsang attendees, all in a circle with the trees. The sun shining ever so brightly in our eyes, and warmth of Amma birthday wishes in our heart. We were all smiling, holding the little trees, and singing (imagining Amma in front of us "**Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday Dear Amma....**") The tools were gathered, water cans filled, trees loaded in the cart, we wandered down the hill. The forest ready to receive the new trees, on this, a devotee's property. The holes were dug with reverence and care, the devotees carefully placed as we repeated "Aumm Amrteswaryai Namah". The trees were nestled in the soil, with such love, and prayers, the Blessed water

Tree Planting

sprinkled, the conversation of the growth, how we will see them flourish in the upcoming years.

The trees all planted, the group wandered back to the house. We shared prayers of love and devotion, peace and healing for all. Feeling such gratitude as we gazed at Amma's precious photo, and reflected on the trees all around. One of our members shared the Amma Facebook post from the day...

A famous biologist once said, 'If all insects on earth disappear, all life on earth would die off within 50 years. Conversely, if all humans disappeared, within 50 years all species would flourish as never before.' It should never get to the point where humankind has to die in order for the world to survive. Each time we cut down a tree, we should see it as a coffin we have built for ourselves. All of our schools should insist that students plant trees. During their examinations, students should be asked, 'How many trees did you plant?' or 'How many vegetables have you grown?' A certain number of marks should be given for environmental preservation. This will encourage children to do more for Nature. - Amma

The other plantings that occurred Shelton in honor of Amma were at 3 other locations, Pine Trees on one devotee's property, Purple Willows on another's farm (she will use them medicinally in balms & tinctures), and another satsang member who was in Florida during the hurricane planted a Loquat tree. Happy Birthday Amma, we are ever grateful. Jai Ma.



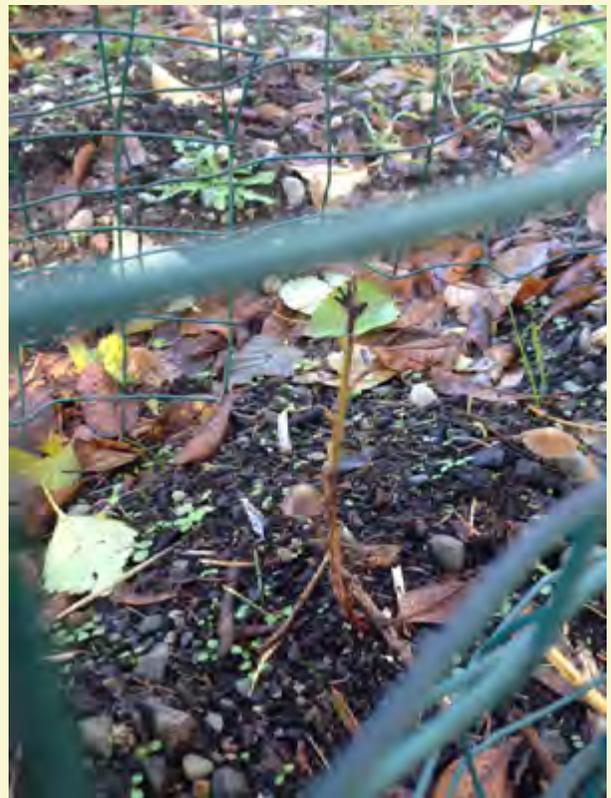
Tree Planting

Port Angeles, WA:

Surabhi and Jayanand planted 3 Cedars and 2 Crab Apple trees.



Sukrutha and her family planted three trees, a Strawberry Arbutis, a Yu and a Cedar, on their property.



Tree Planting

Port Townsend, WA:

Jovanna planted a Cedar. She wrote:

Oh, Divine Mother – all the different ways you bless us!

I had wanted to plant a tree to celebrate Amma and was hoping somebody in my new town, Port Townsend, would be heading up a tree planting ceremony. That way, somebody would have a shovel, a place to plant it and a good recommendation for what kind of tree to get.

By the time I arrived in Seattle, to celebrate Amma, none of these things had happened. And yet, I still really wanted to plant a tree. I saw a table off to the right of the stage holding about six lovely little starter trees. I thought people had brought them to get blessed and, instead, was excited when I found out these trees were being given away to people at the event. One beautiful little cedar tree kept getting my attention. So, with a prayer in my heart, I reached under my chair, like everyone, else to see if I had one of the six surprise gift tickets hidden there. And I did! I was so happy to receive the gift of this tree so it could be planted in honor of Amma.

When I got back to Port Townsend a lovely devotee family, Ishwaranand, Sukruta and Satya, said they would be honored to grow to the on their land.

So, it now grows as a welcoming reminder of Amma as you drive to the entry of their land on the way to satsong.

Thank you Amma.



Tree Planting

Bellingham, WA:

Karen planted 3 Cork Screw Willows, an Incense Cedar, and a Chase tree.



Carolyn planted five trees- Arborvitae, Fir, Apple, Oak and one other.

Bellevue, WA:

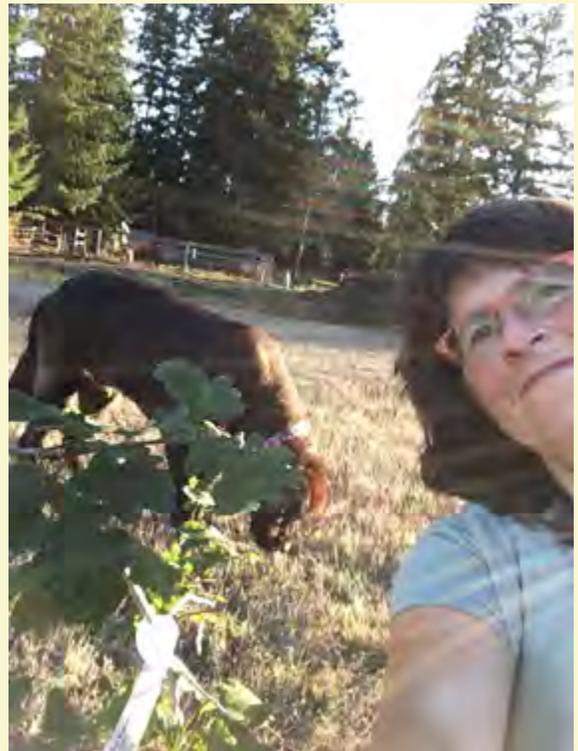
Kothai planted 3 Emerald Green Arborvitae trees.



Tree Planting

Whidbey Island, WA:

Rajeswari Pigott, Ben and Gunamayi planted 3 Douglas Firs, 2 Cedars, one Spruce, one Garry Oak, one Aspen, one Madrone, and one Golden Chain.



Another Whidbey devotee, Bob, planted a tree at his house.

Tree Planting

Maltby, WA:

Visala, Anavadya and Visuddhi planted a Fir. Visala also planted Elderberry, Fir, Cherry, Juniper and Hawthorne trees (plus 2 shrubs).



Tree Planting

Maltby, WA:

In addition, Visala planted two trees for PA and Kalavati who are in India - a Witch Hazel and a Ginkgo.



Mechas planted 2 cherry trees.



Tree Planting

North Bend, WA:

Dhanusri planted a Red Cedar tree. When she sent her photo she commented: "JAI MA.. mulched for the fall season... it seems happy & lively...only an Amma tree can give that reality."



Kingston, WA:

Nandini planted 3 trees - Spring Flurry Serviceberry, Starlight Dogwood and "Autumn Moon" Japanese Maple (and 6 shrubs).



Tree Planting

Seattle, WA:

Tree Planting at our GreenFriends Greenbelt Restoration Site

Seattle Satsang members joined together on October 22 to plant trees in our GreenFriends Greenbelt restoration site on Seattle's Beacon Hill.



The Seattle Parks Department gave us 37 trees- Hemlock, Cedar, Grand Fir, Douglas Fir, Hazelnut, and Sitka Spruce. Thirty-two satsang members participated in the work party.

The work party began with an orientation to the site...



and then Pujarini Meera conducted a series of rituals asking Mother Earth for permission to plant the trees and to nurture and protect them after they are planted. It was a beautiful ceremony.

Tree Planting



Once the rituals were over, Karuna and Ananya, who have taken the training to become Green Seattle Partnership Forest Stewards, gave tree planting instructions.



Tree Planting



Then everyone planted trees!



Tree Planting



What a rewarding day it was. Happy Birthday Amma!

Tree Planting Green Seattle Day

On Green Seattle Day, November 4th, [Green Seattle Partnership](#) sponsors three-hour work parties in parklands all over Seattle. This year Karuna and Sarva agreed to help lead a team at Mountain View, a park that is a few miles south of our GreenFriends restoration site. Visala, Bob and Haley also participated in the event. All of us are members of Seattle Satsang.

Susan, one of the Forest Stewards at Mountain View, had gathered enough leads that Karuna and Sarva were able to plant trees in addition to supervise the planting of others. Our GreenFriends contingent planted 30 trees during that work party. We don't know how many the entire group planted but it was probably close to 100.

Ten years ago, Mountain View park was completely covered with blackberries and ivy. Today it is a beautiful, healthy forest. It was inspiring to witness a living example what reforestation work can do. Someday our GreenFriends restoration site will look like Mountain View!



The Mountain View work party was only one of 22 Seattle parks that had work parties on that day. The chart below is a synopsis of the Green Seattle Day work. What a testament it is to what can be accomplished when we come together in support of Mother Nature.

Tree Planting

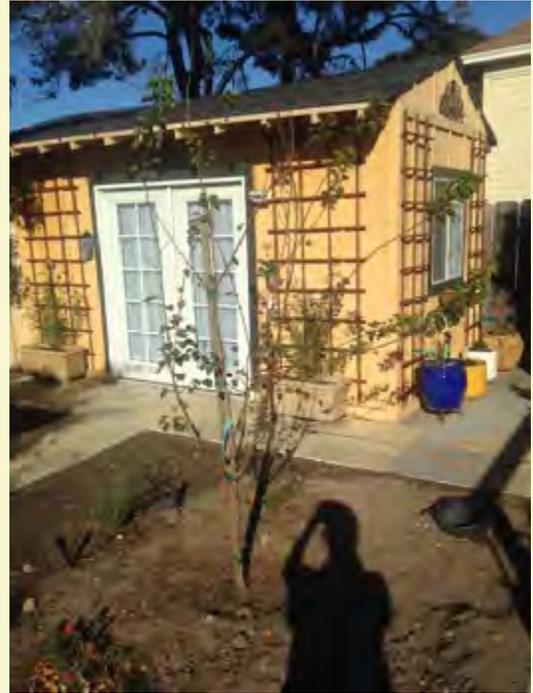
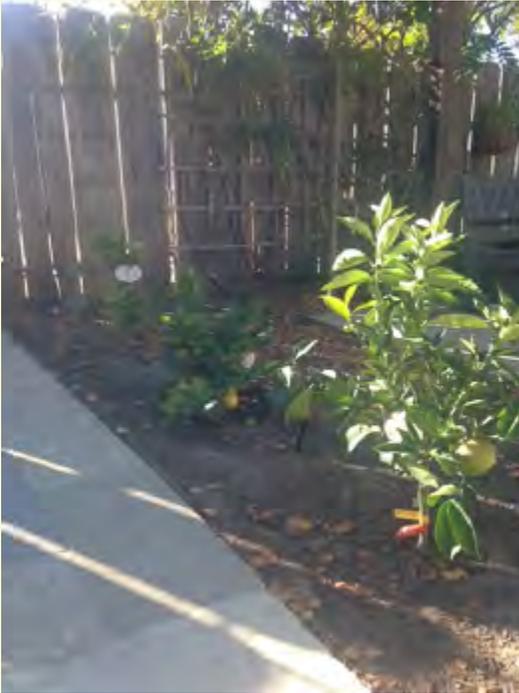


Tree Planting

Seattle, WA:

Kirtana planted a cedar tree.

Rose and Vanamali, who used to live in Seattle but are now living in California, planted three citrus trees- a Lemon, a Lime and an Orange, as well as an Apricot tree, a White Flowering Maple and a Santa Rosa plum tree.



Mark (location unknown) is growing Mango trees from seeds. He has pledged to grow at least three trees.

Tree Planting

A New Beginning

Our Amma's 64th Birthday Tree Planting project is now complete... thank you to everyone for your enthusiasm and participation! And it seems that our commitment to planting trees is just getting warmed up! Several people and satsangs have plans to continue planting trees, even every month. For this reason, we are going to add a new regular section to this newsletter, so we can report the number of trees planted each month, as well as the total since the project began.

When you plant these items, send your report to Karuna at karunap108@comcast.net. Tell us the type and number of trees you planted. Your photos (around 1MB) and stories would also be very welcome.

How high will our numbers go before Amma's birthday next year? It will be fun to find out! And we do plan to celebrate Amma's 65th year with another tree-planting project!