

A vision for our future, grounded in today



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In recent years, the impact of global warming has hit Southern California with massive wildfires that have devastated vast acres of mountain forests. Last year's Station Fire—the worst fire in the history of Los Angeles—burned over 160,000 acres of the Angeles National Forest. 11,000 of those acres were burned too deep in the soil and too widespread for natural seed regeneration. The volunteer support that TreePeople provides is critical for their recovery.



In the face of a sometimes overwhelming onslaught of bad news about the environment, it's easy to feel powerless to make meaningful change.

Imagine if, instead of focusing on—and fighting over—differences and divisions, people sought to unite around shared goals of living in healthy, safe, secure, and beautiful communities.

Imagine what it would be like if, with support and partnership from businesses and government, people worked together to solve water and energy shortages, pollution, the effects of recession, and vulnerability to climate change?

And what would it be like if people began doing this in such numbers as to affect real changes that meet our largest threats?

That may sound unrealistically idealistic. But it actually describes

the real—and growing results of your investment in the work of TreePeople, and our vision for the future.

For nearly four decades TreePeople has been educating and supporting people throughout the Los Angeles region to take simple actions and fundamental steps that leverage powerful change.

But what does all of this have to do with **trees**?

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Imagine if
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It has everything to do with trees.

Aside from being beautiful, trees have always been the central critical element of our life-support system on earth. Trees literally make life possible...

producing oxygen, capturing water, preventing floods, building and feeding soil, providing habitat for bugs, birds, fish and billions of other species, and converting the sun's energy to food, fuel and building materials. The list goes on.

But, as humans have done throughout the ages, we've forgotten these facts and have begun to think of trees only as decorations. As documented in Jared Diamond's book, *Collapse*, every civilization that forgot its trees began a cascade of life support system failures, and ultimately disappeared. Those who remembered and cherished their trees and reversed the trend, saved themselves.

And that's our role together. You and me and all of us at TreePeople. We are planting trees so they can do the job they were designed to do.

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“Those who remembered and cherished their trees saved themselves.”

“In the greater Los Angeles area, monolingual Spanish speakers often live in neighborhoods with extremely low tree coverage, and lack access to the information and training they need to take direct action. The **Citizen Forester en Español** program provides Spanish-language training in tree planting, care, and leadership so these communities can shade and improve their streets.



The Functioning Community Forest

Just as **one tree + one person** is the most basic, powerful unit of partnership, the impact of **many trees + many people** is many times greater. At the largest scale of synergy and cooperation, united with science and good old democracy, you get what we call the **Functioning Community Forest**... a force powerful enough to reverse the environmental cascade in which we currently find ourselves.

The photos you see in this newsletter are just a tiny window into TreePeople's work, a quiet but powerful force for real change and hope. These projects are led and energized by ordinary people, and their impact is becoming the basis for changes in government policies, codes and programs.

Collectively, the hundreds of thousands of people who have taken action with TreePeople since 1973 are a critical mass for change in the L.A. region. If you are not already one of this critical mass, **I invite you to join our effort, whether as a member, a donor, a volunteer, or a supporter.**

Andy Lipkis
TreePeople Founder & President



“Ninety percent of the school grounds in Los Angeles are covered by asphalt. Cutbacks in funding by the State of California make TreePeople's leadership in environmental education and volunteerism more important than ever. Our Campus Forestry program identifies local, underserved and over-paved schools that are eager to learn about the benefits of trees to transform their schools and make a greener, healthier region.”

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 **seedlingnews**

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Editor: Terése Tarantino Greco
Photo Editor: Juan Villegas
Design: Terry Vuong

Subscription and Membership Information
TreePeople
12601 Mulholland Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
(818)753-4600
www.treepeople.org
TreePeople is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

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TreePeople's Mission
TreePeople is a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire, engage and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, making it safe, healthy, fun and sustainable and to share the process as a model for the world.
Photographers:
Jim Dimodica, Melinda Kelley, Stephen Readmond, Lisa Sotelo, Karla Taccad, Terése Tarantino Greco

Thanks to Our Second-Quarter Donors!

For 37 years, TreePeople members have generously provided the foundation for our continuing programs.

Membership makes a huge difference and we thank all our donors for their special gifts.

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Help TreePeople restore the Angeles!

This spring, TreePeople and the U.S. Forest Service will team up to enlist volunteers to plant 23,000 native seedlings in 2011 in this beloved forest right outside L.A. Our **Holiday Tree Dedication Program** is designed to help support our efforts in the Angeles National Forest.

For a donation of \$25, you can help our efforts by dedicating a tree to a family member or friend. TreePeople will send a card with a warm holiday message notifying them of your generous gift.

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12601 Mulholland Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210
Telephone (818) 753-4600
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