



Seedling news

Meet Thierry Rivard: Leading the Charge for Mountain Forestry at TreePeople



Welcome to an exclusive interview with Thierry Rivard, Director of Mountain Forestry Strategic Partnerships & Operations at TreePeople. Hailing from France, Thierry's journey to California in 2012 ignited his passion for environmental

stewardship. Since 2013, he has played a pivotal role in TreePeople's Angeles National Forest restoration program, leading the planting of thousands of trees. After enriching his experience with various environmental nonprofits, Thierry returned to TreePeople in 2018 to spearhead the Mountain Forestry department. His strategic expertise and collaborative approach have driven multiple restoration projects, empowering communities to safeguard their natural landscapes.

Join us as we uncover the remarkable journey of TreePeople's Mountain Forestry Program, dedicated to restoring our forests to their vibrant, natural splendor.

Q: Can you tell us about TreePeople's journey and your involvement in forestry?

A: TreePeople began its journey in the San Bernardino Mountains, focusing initially on conifer plantings which were getting harmed by pollution, such as the Jeffrey Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Sugar Pine and Bigcone Douglas-fir. Over time, our efforts expanded to encompass after-fire reforestation in the Angeles National Forest, then chaparral restoration in the Santa Monica Mountains, and now, we're involved in nearly every aspect of forest health.

Q: What are the core principles guiding TreePeople's approach to forest health?

A: At TreePeople, we prioritize resilience, recurrence, and persistence, aiming to establish sustainable ecological conditions for biodiversity and forest health. Additionally, we directly address the importance of understanding what forests can provide for humans, highlighting the value of healthy ecosystems for our communities, such as planting species that can help slow the spread of deadly wildfires.

Q: Could you share some insights into the range of Mountain Forestry related activities TreePeople is involved in?

A: Our activities span restoration, invasive species removal, seed collection and propagation, research, environmental compliance, and community engagement. We're committed to ensuring that our forests thrive!

Q: How does Mountain Forestry engage with the community?

A: Community engagement is at the heart of our work. We host around ten Mountain Forestry events per week, resulting in over 300 volunteer opportunities and the engagement of more than 3,000 volunteers annually for this department alone. Through education, training, and workshops, we empower individuals to become stewards of their local ecosystems. We also partner with TreePeople's award-winning education program to bring students and nature together.



Before and after: San Francisquito Canyon. Credit: Adam Corey Thomas

Q: What are some notable achievements and areas of engagement for TreePeople?

A: We've seen significant growth in our impact, expanding our efforts from a few acres to hundreds across regions like the Sierra Pelona Mountains, for example in San Francisquito Canyon or in the San Gabriel National Monument, where we are focusing on a conifer species threatened by climate change: the Bigcone Douglas-fir. By incorporating innovative approaches like our new workforce development efforts to supplement our traditional volunteer

engagement, science, and research, we have made real strides in restoring these invaluable and diverse ecosystems.

Q: How does TreePeople secure funding for its projects?

A: Securing funding is vital for our work. While grants and contracts make up a significant portion of our revenue, we also rely on private funding support from individuals, foundations, and corporations. This funding is essential for initiatives like staff training, equipment acquisition, and community outreach.

To find out more information on TreePeople’s Mountain Forestry work, feel free to visit our website: treepeople.org/mountain-forestry or treepeople.org/volunteer to find a volunteer opportunity near you!

For more information about supporting this exciting work, please visit treepeople.org/support-us/



It’s Electric!

Meet our new, 100% electric Subaru Solterra, beautifully decorated with leaves and butterflies, thanks to the tremendous generosity of TreePeople Board Member Susan Drake of Subaru Sherman Oaks. Thank you Susan, for helping bring visibility to TreePeople and our mission as we reduce our carbon footprint.

TreePeople x OUTFRONT

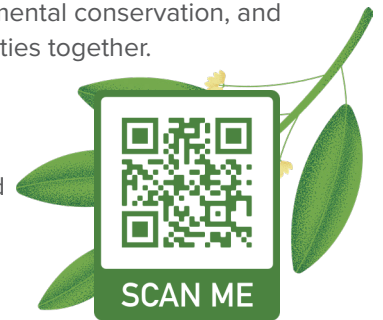
Have you seen our brand new TreePeople billboards around town? Snap a pic and tag us [@treepeople_org](https://twitter.com/treepeople_org) to be featured on our story! Thank you to our friends at OUTFRONT for such a generous donation of billboard space to spread the love for trees through this incredible signage!



Smart Giving that Benefits You

TreePeople’s Executive Director of Development, Robyn Rehak, sat down with Mitchell Kraus, fellow TreePeople enthusiast, volunteer, and host of the podcast Giving Intelligence. On his podcast, Kraus explores the impact of leading nonprofits and the meaningful ways to support their missions. On episode 6, Kraus and Rehak discuss TreePeople’s focus on environmental conservation, and how we can all build resilient cities together.

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/treepodcast to listen to their inspiring conversation and learn how to make the most of your giving in your community.



Learn More

Planned gifts allow you to continue supporting our mission well into the future, leave a positive impact on the planet and your community, and can provide you with potential tax benefits. You can include TreePeople in your estate plan by naming us as a beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement accounts, or life insurance policies.

Interested in learning more about how you can maximize your charitable planned giving? Please contact Robyn Rehak, our Executive Director of Development, at **818-753-8733** or email legacy@treepeople.org.





TreePeople 2023 by the Numbers

Engagement

22,138

volunteer hours

6,930

volunteers engaged

1,319

youth volunteers

868

volunteer events

Acres Restored

70

acres of
invasives
removed

208

cubic yards
of invasives
removed

7,770

linear feet
of trail
maintained

Tree Distribution

2,850

fruit trees distributed

1,242

shade trees distributed

190

understory distributed

Planting/Care

72,000

trees & understory cared for

8,968

trees planted

4,200

understory planted

27

communities/ areas served

Urban:

Huntington Park, Lynwood, Inglewood, Riverside, Commerce, San Fernando, North Hollywood, Sun Valley, Pacoima, Canoga Park, Sylmar, Cudahy, South Gate, El Monte, Rialto, Northridge, Valley Oaks, Paramount, Watts

Open Space:

Baldwin Hills (Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area), San Francisquito Canyon, Lake Huges and Shake Plantation, Castaic Oak, Cheeseboro Canyon, Paramount Ranch, LA River, Green Valley

Education

21,733

students engaged

624

projects/tours completed

262

schools served

LEARN MORE AT [TREEPEOPLE.ORG](https://www.treepeople.org)

Water Equity

Safe, Clean Water Program (LA County Measure W):

- Year 2 serving as Watershed Coordinator in the Santa Clara River Watershed Area
- WaterTalks (Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program)
- Convened a dozen community-based organizations throughout the year for the Water Leadership Group
- 20 projects developed based on community-identified needs
- Hosted 15 workshops and tours



TreePeople's mission is to inspire, engage and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, making it safe, healthy, fun and sustainable and to share our process as a model for the world.



Mother's Day Tree Dedication Cards are here!

Show your love for the amazing mothers in your life (including Mother Earth!) With our Tree Dedication program, you can give a gift that grows! Donate to make their day extra special AND contribute to a greener, more sustainable Southern California.

For more information, visit us at treepeople.org/tree-dedications/, call **818-753-TREE (8733)**, or email treegifts@treepeople.org.



Have questions? Please contact:
development@treepeople.org

Want to make a donation?
www.treepeople.org/supportus

Bequests and planned giving inquiries:
legacy@treepeople.org

We are making an effort to reduce our use of paper. If you would like to receive communications like these by email, please let us know at development@treepeople.org