



IN THIS ISSUE: PICTURES OF OUR AUTUMN



Greenhouse Construction Begins: in the photo at top, the first of a series of small, passive-solar greenhouses was taking shape, by mid-November, at our Wild Plant Nursery in Springfield, Virginia. (For more on the greenhouse project, see the November *Acorn*.) The greenhouses will allow us to sprout our native-plant seedlings during the winter, right at the nursery. Our current greenhouse, generously donated by the Fairfax County Park Authority, is 20 miles away, in Chantilly. On-site, over-winter production will help us create a more efficient connection to our partners' restoration sites during the spring, when demand for nursery stock is highest.

Stone Ridge in the Field and at the Nursery: above, in September, students from the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, in Bethesda, planted hundreds of native trees and shrubs at the Marie Butler Leven Preserve, in Fairfax County. All the plants were grown from local seed at our nursery, and Stone Ridge students worked there too. At right, they prepared flats of oak and hickory seed at the nursery in October. Over the years, Stone Ridge students have invested thousands of hours in our nursery and the Preserve.

HELP US GROW OUR RESTORATION NURSERIES!

Make a donation for our Wild Plant Nursery greenhouses! Our nursery produces thousands of native, wild-propagated trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses every year, for local parks and schoolyards. Help us make it even more effective. See the enclosed reply card.

Our Tree Bank Nursery could use your support as well. The Tree Bank works along a stretch of the Dominican Republic / Haiti border to conserve forest and improve small-holder farm incomes. We need to buy more shade cloth, more water storage, and a drying structure for our soon-to-be resumed coffee harvest. See inside.

Two very generous donors will match you! Our benefactors will match the first \$50 of your gift! You give at least \$50, we get at least \$100 — and you can designate the full amount for either the local or the Tree Bank nursery. See the enclosed reply card, or give on-line at earthsangha.org. The match runs through January 4. One \$50 match per household.



Green Muslims @ Rutherford: above, in October, we hosted an event for the Green Muslims at Rutherford Park, along Fairfax County's Long Branch Stream. Our friends put in a mixture of herbaceous and woody seedlings, all grown from local, wild seed at our nursery, and they took some time to appreciate the park as well. That line of sycamore trees is proof that a volunteer-based approach can work. We grew those trees from seed and planted them here in 2007.

Coffee under Native Canopy: at far right, coffee is returning, at last, to our Tree Bank program area, on the Dominican Republic side of the DR / Haiti border. Those red fruits are ripening coffee cherries. This will be the first substantial coffee harvest in our region since 2014. (By the end of the following year, all of the region's coffee trees had succumbed to a fungal epidemic.) We have been planting disease-resistant coffee seedlings, by the thousands, ever since. Coffee is important because it's a high-value crop that can be grown under native forest canopy, as in this grove. There's lots of habitat here for birds, reptiles, and other critters! And because those trees shelter coffee, they are making money for our farmers. That's why we call our coffee groves "Bosques Rentables" — "Profitable Forests." A profitable forest is unlikely to be cut. At center, our Tree Bank nursery, shown in November, produces a variety of native, locally propagated tree seedlings to create more Profitable Forests. This species, "guasara," is common in moist forest.

There Will Always Be Forms: at the top is one of the forms that we use to track the Tree Bank's work. This one documents a tree-planting done in October. The form identifies the owner of the land and shows what we paid to clear the invasive brush and replant with natives. It also inventories the trees that we put in: 446 little native trees, representing nine species, on a little over an acre of land.



FORMULARIO DE SIEMBRA Y MANTENIMIENTO

Una iniciativa para establecer parcelas de café y cacao bajo una cubierta forestal que es nativa y diversa.

IDENTIFICACIÓN

Nombre del dueño/a: Manuel de la Reyes Pinales Volta
 Tamaño de la parcela: 7 tareas Fecha de esta actividad: 22/10/2019

ACTIVIDADES

Actividades esta vez (marque las líneas apropiadas)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comenzar una nueva parcela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sembrar especies de crecimiento rápido	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sembrar especies nativas (no necesariamente rápidas)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sembrar café	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sembrar cacao	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Limpiar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Otro:	<input type="checkbox"/>

SIEMBRA (si hay esta vez)

Especie:	Cantidad:
<u>Guama</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>Algarroba</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>Gubara</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>Yagua</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Condón de paloma</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Casta cuellita</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Cabilma</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>Jaca</u>	<u>84</u>
<u>Manacle</u>	<u>10</u>
Total (suma la columna "Cantidad"):	446

PAGOS

Tipo de trabajo	RDS / tarea: estándar	RDS / tarea: ajustado	N° de tareas	Total
Arar	\$ 500	\$		
Sembrar	\$ 100	\$	<u>7</u>	<u>700</u>
Limpiar	\$ 500	\$	<u>7</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Otro *	\$	\$		
Total final (suma la columna "Total"):				<u>4,200</u>

Notas

Cualquier tarifa ajustada debe ser aprobado por el Earth Sangha antes de que el trabajo empiece.
 N° Tareas es el número de tareas trabajadas en esa actividad (no necesariamente de la parcela entera).
 *Si hay otra actividad, especifique:

EVALUACIÓN

Indique como la parcela se ve o haga notas específicas:

La parcela se ve muy bien organizada con sus baneras y el suelo se ve adecuado para la plantación.

Nombre(s) de trabajador(es): Sanson

Fecha en que se pagaron: 15/10/2019

FIRMA

Funcionario del programa debe firmar:

Yo certifico que:
 La información en este formulario es correcta.
 El trabajo se ha realizado correctamente, y
 Todos los trabajadores han sido pagados.

Alfonso Sanchez

Firma y fecha 22/10/2019



Tome fotos del área entero (por lo menos 5 fotos).

La altura media de los árboles es 7 metros.

Fecha del examen: 22/10/2019

Copias de este formulario deben distribuirse a la Asociación, al Earth Sangha, y al dueño/a. Versiones electrónicas de todas las fotos del área se deben enviar al Earth Sangha.

Comunicarse con el Earth Sangha por fax, a 1-703-562-8388 o por correo electrónico a earthsangha@gmail.com.



A HARVEST FOR THE LAND

Human hands have been stripping seed off plants, probably for as long as there have been human beings. Eventually, we learned to sow as well as reap, and there followed the greatest innovation that humanity has ever produced: the invention of agriculture, some 11,000 to 6,000 years ago, depending on the region. When practiced on a large scale, sowing and reaping could yield harvests rich enough and reliable enough for stable settlements, then towns, and eventually the nation states that have come to dominate our world.

But what we learned to dominate we have not yet learned to preserve, and the natural substance of our world is slipping away, slipping through our fingers, even as we struggle to squeeze from it more and more of our wants and needs.

The time has come for a different kind of harvest — one that is designed, not for the benefit of humanity, or at least not directly for our benefit, but to help preserve the myriad plants and animals with whom we share this world. Instead of just harvesting for our own consumption, we should begin to harvest as a way of collaborating with the wild, as perhaps in the photo above. That's Earth Sangha intern Katie Danner collecting seed at Fairfax County's Elklick Preserve in October. Katie is following our standard practice: minimal disturbance and the collection of only a tiny fraction of available seed. But that's harvest enough for us to work with — and over time, enough to give these species another chance in the landscape.

— *Chris Bright, President*

WANT TO INTERN WITH US?

The Sangha is accepting applications for spring internships. Interns work with our staff and volunteers at our Wild Plant Nursery and field sites in northern Virginia. To learn more, go to earthsangha.org or email Matt Bright, at mbright@earthsangha.org. \$15 per hour, 15-20 hours per week, 2 or 3 days per week.

EARTH SANGHA

CONSERVATION IN PRACTICE

The Earth Sangha is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity based in the Washington, DC, area and devoted to ecological restoration. We work in the spirit of Buddhist practice, but our members and volunteers come from a wide variety of religious and secular backgrounds.

Want to contact us or make a donation? You can support our work by becoming a member. Membership starts at \$35 per year. Donations are tax-deductible. You can mail us a check (made out to “Earth Sangha”) or donate on our website. We will send you a receipt and include you in our mailings. (If your name and address are correct on your check, there is no need to send us anything else.) To donate specifically to our DC-Area programs, write “DC-Area” on the check memo line; to donate specifically to the Tree Bank, write “Tree Bank” on the memo line. [Contact us at: Earth Sangha, 5101 I Backlick Road, Annandale, VA 22003 | \(703\) 333-3022 | earthsangha.org](http://earthsangha.org). Complete program information is available on our website.

Want to volunteer with us? We work with volunteers at our Wild Plant Nursery and our field sites in northern Virginia. For more information see our website or call Matt Bright at (703) 333-3022.

The Acorn: Our newsletter is printed on paper that is 100% post-consumer waste recycled, process chlorine-free, and manufactured entirely with wind-generated electricity. This issue copyright © 2019, Earth Sangha.

Gold-rated: The Earth Sangha has a gold rating from GuideStar Exchange for commitment to transparency.

One of the best: The Earth Sangha is recognized by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as “one of the best small charities in the Washington, DC, region.”

