

Pacific Northwest Litter Pick-up Project

Green Friends

Nature on its own is indeed beautiful and clean. The hills and rivers do not need us to clean them. In fact it is nature's water which cleans us; it is trees which purify air for us. Because we have littered, we have spoilt its pristine beauty.

Amma



June Greetings

I'm sorry about the June newsletter being late. I thought about making a June-July issue but decided to go ahead and write one now. I will hold the news from Amma's Pacific Northwest tour for the July issue!

Amazingly, our project members found time to pick up 119 hours of litter in May despite of all the tour preparation work they were doing. (I suspect that number will go up even more once everyone reports their time.)

Vancouver Satsang formed a Litter Project group recently and held their first work party on Mother's Day. Welcome to you Vancouver! Oly Pen satsang also held a Mother's Day litter work party.

July is our anniversary month. By the end of May, we had picked up 1814 hours of litter. There is a good chance we will reach 2000 hours at least by the end of July!

Thanks to each one of you for the service you are doing for Mother Nature.

Karuna

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

Green Friends 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 Green Friends Litter Project write Karuna at pnwgreenfriendslitterproject@gmail.com

News from Anagha in Chennai:

This month, my school collected and recycled over 265 pounds of paper or the equivalent of about 2 and 1/2 trees! We plan to continue recycling paper as a school next year and will be keeping track of how much paper we recycle over the year. I will continue to send you updates about it if you would like.

Litter Pick Up Tool

Saul found light weight litter pick up tools selling for \$12 a dozen (i.e. \$1 apiece!).

<http://www.doitbest.com/Hand+weeder+and+cultivator-Do+It+Best+Gs-model-BW017-doitbest-sku-634220.dib>



Litter Project Membership

As of May 31, 2012, we had 228 members.
8 new members joined in May

(“Members” are individuals who signed up for the project or who have participated in work parties.)

Litter Project Hours

In May 40 members reported picking up
119.12 hours of litter.

(The statistics below relate to members who report having picked up litter. They do not include those who do not report or who reported 0.)

Members Average: 2.98 hours
Range 2 minutes to 23 hours
Median: 1.5 hours

The group has picked up 1814.47 hours of litter since the project began in July 2011!

Aluminum Can Report

Washington State Litter Project members collect and sell aluminum cans gathered from the litter they pick up and from friends, family and colleagues.

In 2011 they sold 323 pounds of aluminum cans for \$151.04.

During May 2012 they sold 31 pounds of aluminum for \$ 14.40 which makes 213 pounds and \$104.94 for 2012 to date.

All funds were donated to the Pacific Northwest Amma Center.



Mother's Day Work Parties!

Vancouver B.C.

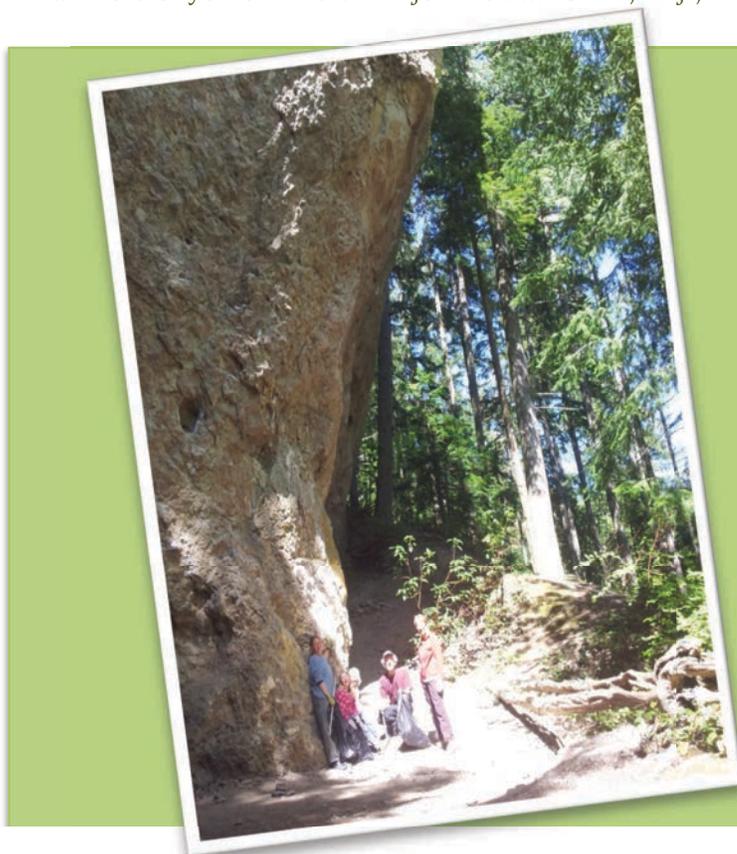


Volunteers from the Amma Vancouver Satsang group got together on Sunday 13th May for our first 'litter seva'. We were participating in the Keep Vancouver Spectacular campaign run by the City.

It was a gorgeous day in Vancouver. We worked in pairs, and enjoyed our chance to give back to the community, and share in the spirit of working together for a great cause.

Our little group (4 of us) met on the East side of Vancouver and filled 10 bags of garbage in addition to some larger household items found tossed in the peripheries of a local park.

A little bonus after the work was done was resting on the grass together for a while, sharing "Amma" stories and our excitement over her upcoming programs in Seattle. We are looking forward to the next 'litter seva', and hope that more of you out there will join us!!..... Clara, Raji, Allan, Suneti



Olympic Peninsula, WA

Shanti , Lucia , Myka , Eswar , Shanti's mom Sandy and Geoff (Harikesh) spent two hours on Mother's Day picking up litter at Tamonawas Rock. This is a very important site for the local tribes. The name means spirit guide, a very sacred place where relatives reunite with their spirit guides!

Other Green Friends News

Olympic Peninsula Satsang Plant Sale, May 5th, 2012

From Eswar: It was Cinco De Mayo day in Port Townsend, and a great day to hold a plant sale! The day began overcast and cold but by mid-day the sun came out in full force. Nika Gielfuss, the satsang's resident plant expert, planned and coordinated the event. She spent months selecting unusual and colorful plants from her fabulous Bainbridge Island garden; digging them up and potting them and even making laminated photos of the plant types. Several other local devotees brought plants and trees to sell as well. Satyavati Hanafree from Tacoma donated small native trees and made herbal oils and plant baskets to sell. Sukrutha Gatto donated birdhouses she made from gourds – one of them hanging now in Vandy and Eswar's garden is being checked out by a pair of swallows. Nirmukti Kitts donated sweets (her incredible shortbread cookies!) and chai and Gatanjali's partner donated fabulous fudge to sell.

We held the sale in the yard of Radha Devi located on a busy neighborhood street in the Uptown district of Port Townsend. Radha was a great host even providing an awesome lunch that kept us going all afternoon. Nika, Vrinda Brewster, and Jayanand Boetsch helped people pick plants appropriate to their garden space and needs. Several devotees wore big hats and swung Plant Sale signs in an attempt to reel in potential customers as they drove by. Sri Lalitha Dunham cashiered collecting over \$1500! The rest of us - Eswar, Vandy, Tanya Pednekar, John Cross, Lucia and Harikesh (Geoff) Briggs entertained customers, helped move plants into car trunks, and generally had fun all day long! It was a day of enjoying Nature's Bounty and the joy of working together.



Seattle Satsang Plant and Garage Sale May 19th, 2012

From Visala: I cannot express to you the heartfelt happy feelings and thanks that I have about the coming together of this community to pull off this event incredible! WOW!! We had OLY Penn folks donating plants, Tacoma Satsang cooking for us and working hard all day! We had many Garage Sale attendees wanting to know who our Amma is. We had many East and West Side devotees working hard all day! We spontaneously had two little neighbor girls (who've never met Amma) set up a lemonade stand and raise \$30 for our cause. When the lemonade was gone, they brought out their violins to busk for cash for our cause. It was so adorable. All total, the number of people who contributed to this event is well over 60! You beautiful people are amazing. Thanks so much and oh ya.. We raised \$1704 for the Pacific Northwest Amma Center. Several hundred was from the sales of plants.