



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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Interesting Information from Our Readers



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

PNW Gardening

*Tis the Season of Daffodils
by Sreejit*

*Tis the season of daffodils
gardens spread across the hills
all see with their sight
flowers bent towards light
and birds with new mouths to fill*

*Tis the season of dirty hands
of remembering how to work the lands
a plow or a shovel
get me on the double
time is short and my plans are grand*

*Tis the season we'll work together
to make earth just a little bit better
for spring is upon us
and gloom is beyond us
and we're GreenFriends - together forever*

Needed- YOUR Gardening articles, poems, and photos for the PNW Gardening Section
Send your Newsletter offerings to Karuna at karunap108@comcast.net

Nature Springtime



Nature

Longings

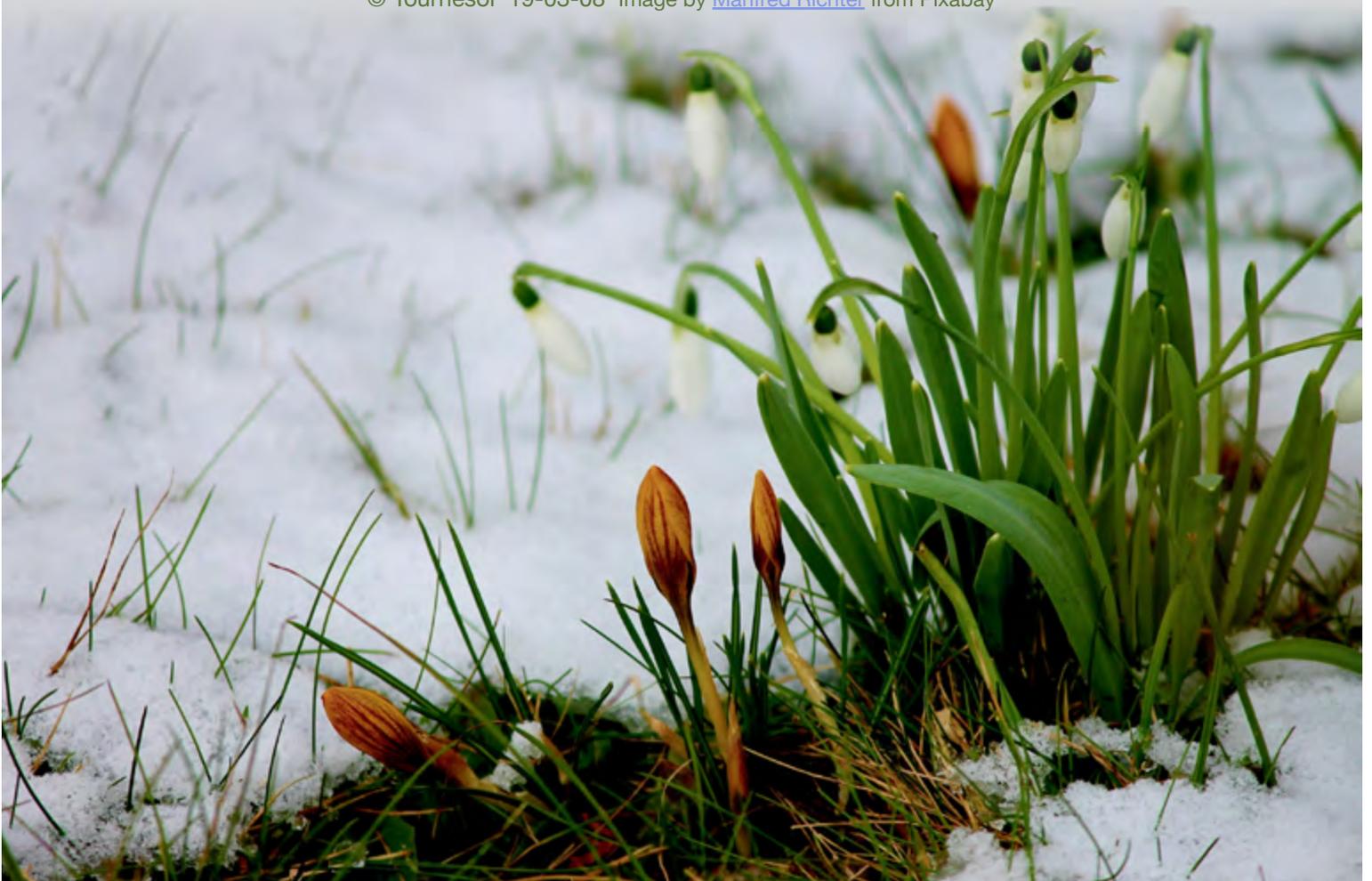
*soft sounds of longing
travelling through each brittle branch
buds can't wait to burst*

*soft sounds of longing
snow is muffling cries below
impatient tulips*

*travelling through each branch
dripping sap to quench their thirst
maples on my street*

*buds can't wait to burst
Mother Nature sings her song
"there there, won't be long"*

© Tournesol '19-03-08 Image by [Manfred Richter](#) from Pixabay



Nature

Glorious Sunsets



Nature

heart break.... by Kathie

I walk up and down my long, dead end street (the equivalent of about three city blocks) 2 or 3 times, every day, all year round. Not very far for an athlete but a good number of steps for me.

I love my neighborhood. And I love to take pictures of the things I see.

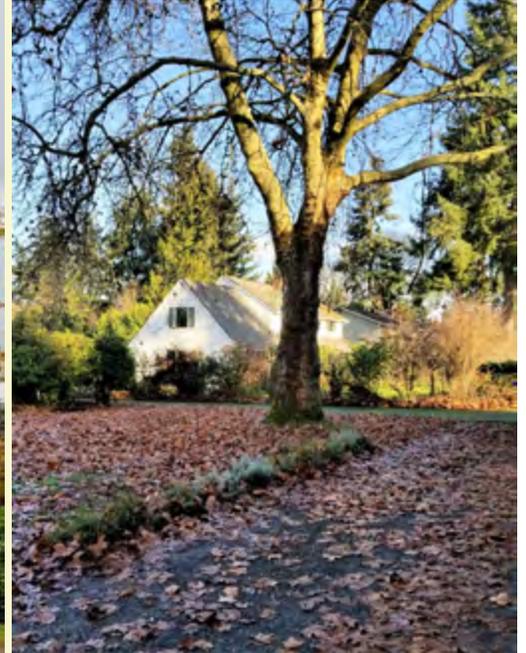
I have a favorite tree...



Looking East at Sunset

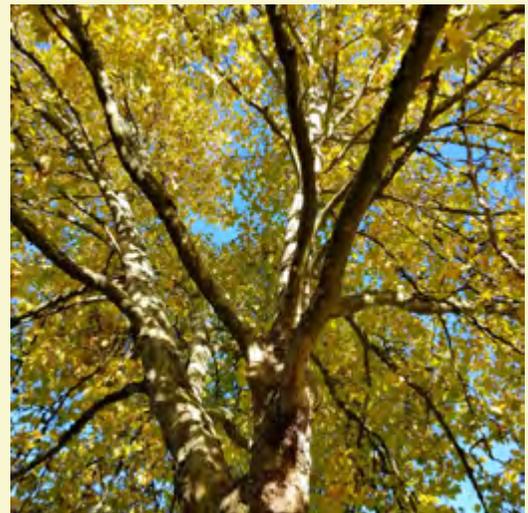


Looking West at Sunrise



When she undresses in the Fall, she blankets the entire neighborhood with her clothes.

This tree is huge, old, lush and glorious. I love to stand under her when it's pouring down rain. You can stay completely dry and the sound of those heavy drops smacking her leaves and then bouncing off is amazing!



Nature

My neighborhood is changing so much these days. One by one, the older homes are being flattened, in order to be replaced with huge and mostly beautiful new houses.



My son grew up (part time) in the “yellow house”, two doors away. They had a pool, and a kid exactly his age. For a time, when the neighborhood was full of young, single Mom’s, we would babysit each other’s kids and on Friday nights, we Mom’s would have a “progressive” relaxation evening. We’d go from one house to the next, to the next, for snacks, and wine. Among us, we had an outdoor Sauna, a hot tub, a pool and we’d finish at my house on my deck. I had the best view of the sunset.

Other great families have lived in the yellow house too over the years, but.....it has been the next one to bite the dust.

What a back ho and dozer can do to a home on purpose, in just 2 days, is exactly the same thing we see on the news, someone living in Tornado Alley, whose home gets flattened in minutes.

Yellow House..... gone...



I get this, intellectually, but I have so much judgment about it...the waste, the destruction of usable space, and the loss of history. At least, this builder is big into recycling, re-purposing, and replanting. He (and the owners) saved as many bushes and plants as possible and offered them to the neighbors.

Nature

But to me, personally, what is way more painful, is murder of the trees. I know that's a dramatic (and controversial) way to say it, but what else can you call killing a huge living thing that's been here since before you were born??

I've written about this before...kind of like eulogies, but I think each one of these ancient stately beings deserves at least that much when they are taken down.

<https://chosenperspectives.com/2016/10/05/tree-daily-prompt-from-chosenperspectives-10-5-16>

There is a young, mystery ecologist on the street and I'm just sure she wrote this sign the day the heavy equipment showed up at the yellow house...and she pinned it to my favorite tree.



but they didn't....



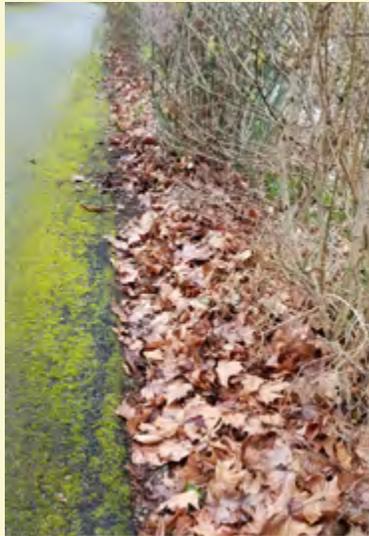
Nature

So disrespectful of her remains...

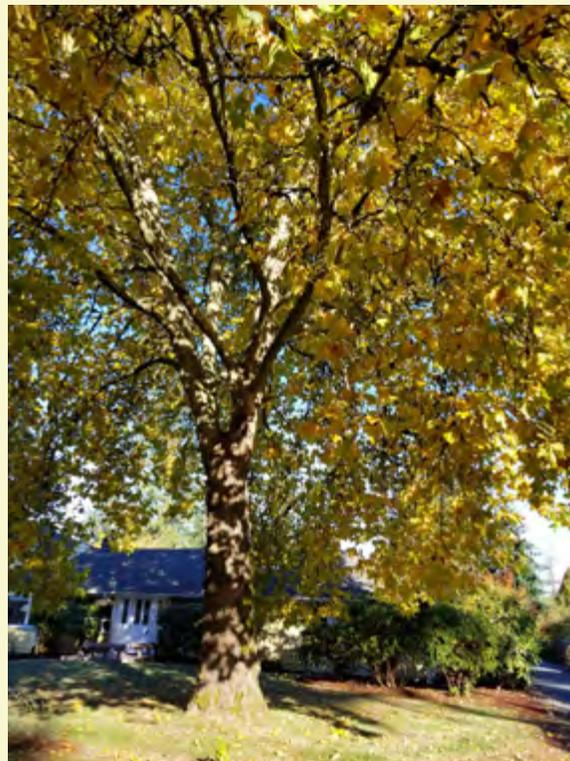


I will miss her so much, and I am committed to working on understanding the perceived necessity of her demise.

This may be all that's left of her...



But THIS is how I will remember her!



Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration

Greenbelt Restoration Work Party: February 24, 2019



On a chilly but snow-free February morning, eleven volunteers gathered to work in our Greenbelt forest restoration site. Gopika, Antje and Karuna served as team leaders. In addition, a neighbor, two students from Seattle University's Environmental Perspectives class and five volunteers who had found us on the Green Seattle Partnership's [Event Page](#) participated.

This was the first time we held a work party where the restoration work was exclusively in the Greenbelt site that is north of the Hanford Stairs. (Our main site is south of the stairs.) After the initial orientation, we divided into three teams.

Teams One and Two

We have been having a problem with people dumping yard waste and trash into a section of the Greenbelt that we had begun to clear last fall. Planting trees, shrubs and ground covers in that area seemed like a way to stop the dumping, or at least it was worth a try.

Planting in that section would be no easy matter though. Take a look at what the land looked like at the beginning of this work party.



Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration

Preparing this land for planting would take several work parties. We decided to start in a section where the blackberry vines had been cut down but the root balls hadn't been dug out.



Our plan for this work party was to clear a small strip of land on the edge of the place where the Greenbelt becomes a steep slope. Once it was cleared, we would create a barrier along that strip. The barrier might be helpful in reducing dumping. Even if it wasn't, it would make people more aware of work being done on the slope on the other side of it.

The barrier would be built from dried branches as well as materials that might slow down weed growth. All of the materials we will use to create it will decompose over time and enrich the soil. Once the barrier is built, we will plant the trees, shrubs and ground covers on the flat land that is east of it.

As the team began to work, they discovered that there were many layers of ivy and periwinkle vines both on top of the ground and under it. The team worked diligently.



While the first team was clearing the land in the strip, the second team did tasks that supported the first and third teams. For example, they filled buckets with wood chips and then took the buckets to the areas where the wood chips would be spread over cleared ground.

Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration



Once the buckets were empty, team two volunteers refilled them. They also filled several buckets with branches that would become part of the barrier. After some time, the second team joined the first team in clearing the strip.



These groups cleared a significant amount of land. This is what the strip looked like once the blackberry root balls, ivy and periwinkle vines had been removed.

During part of the clearing time, one of the volunteers cut cedar leaves off cedar branches that had been dumped in the Greenbelt. Sometimes the leaves were left on the thinner branches. Those leaves became the first layer of the barrier. Then the cedar leaves were covered with two layers of burlap bags, followed by layers of wood chips and then branches.



Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration



There will be many more layers in the barrier and in time the strip will be at least three times as long as it is now. What it will look like when we finish it is anyone's guess. This project is definitely an experiment.

Team 3

The third team started the work party clearing an area near the Hanford stairs, an area that also had invasive black-berry, ivy and periwinkle vines.



Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration

As soon as a section was cleared, the volunteers covered the ground with wood chips. Here the wood chips serve primarily as mulch. When they finished the area along the stairs looked like this:



After a snack break, team three decided to clear invasive ivy, blackberry and periwinkle vines... and occasionally trash... in a part of the Greenbelt that was a bit further away from the stairs. One member of group two and Karuna joined them.



Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration

Greenbelt Restoration Work Party: March 10, 2019



We would be planting 75 shrubs and ground covers in our GreenFriends forest restoration site on March 17. The March 10 work party focused on getting new areas prepared for planting. Almost all of our team leaders and two of their friends attended that work party as did seven members of the Franklin National Honor Society. In all, 16 volunteers took part in the March 10 work party.

During the last two years, when we cut or pulled out vines such as blackberry, ivy and bindweed, and dug out blackberry root balls, we usually took the waste to the foundation of a house that exists on our Greenbelt site. Once there, we placed the waste on drying racks that we had built inside the foundation. We call that area “The Rack Zone” and we generally refer to the dried vines, branches and root balls as “debris.”

In January, we had taken apart most of the racks in The Rack Zone and spread the debris throughout the Zone. The debris will continue to decompose and in time it will become another planting area.

Not all the debris is located in The Rack Zone, however; some of it has been placed on racks that are scattered throughout the site. During the first part of the March 10 work party, we began the process of putting the dried debris in those piles on tarps, and then dumped the tarps in The Rack Zone. Removing the piles of debris was the first step in getting those areas ready for planting.

We started by dismantling the racks on the south end of the site. The photo below shows what one area looked like at the beginning of the work party. Last Fall, that pile of debris had been four to five feet high but other work party participants had removed a lot of it. Our goal during this work party was to move the remainder of the debris to The Rack Zone.

Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration



We would also be taking down a big pile of debris just east of it. You can see part of that pile in the middle left section of the photo above. That pile was much bigger than what you can see in the photo.

These two piles were located at the southwest part of the site. We also removed a pile of debris in the southeast section of the site and one north of the Hanford Stairs.



The southwest area looked like this once the piles had been removed. The debris that is still scattered on the ground will become mulch.

Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration



While most of the volunteers were clearing the section on the southwest part of the site, a smaller group worked in the southeast area. The photo below was taken of this space the end of September 2018.



The volunteers in this group moved the pile of dried debris to The Rack Zone



Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration

In the first photo below, a team leader is teaching the students how to dig out blackberry root balls. If you look up the hill from where they are standing, you will also see some of the larger group working in the southwest area. By the time this photo was taken, both groups had removed most of the debris in their areas. The second photo shows what the space in the southeast area looked like once the pile of debris and the blackberry root balls had been removed. The land is ready for planting and the remaining debris will be used for mulch.



After taking a break, we divided into four groups.

Group 1

There is an area along 25th Ave S. that is part of an adjacent Greenbelt site. When we started to clear that section during the February 24 work party, blackberry, ivy and periwinkle vines formed a tight web over much of the ground. There was also a lot of downed trees, branches and other debris.

While we had accomplished a great deal on February 24, it was hard to imagine it could be ready for planting on March 17. A few days later, Karuna worked there on her own and cleared enough space to feel some hope that we could have it ready by the 17th. The next two days John (my neighbor) worked alongside her. Since he uses a pick ax, we progressed much faster. The land suitable for planting was growing!



Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration

During the March 10 work party, Group 1 removed a debris pile from the 25th Ave. S area and expanded the planting area. They also moved a lot of the branches and logs that were scattered in that area and dug out blackberry root balls.



Group 2

John and Jason, who are both neighbors and team leaders, worked in an area where blackberry vines had pulled two trees to the ground. They freed those trees and cut down blackberry vines in the surrounding area.



This area will take a lot more work to clear. Here is what it looks like now.



Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration

Group 3

Prior to this work party, the places where new plants will be planted were marked with a pink flag, a white sign that indicates the name of the plant and a stick with red and black flagging tape. The red and black tape indicates that the item was planted during the 2018-19 planting season.

On March 17, participants will look for the pink flags. They will then plant the specified shrub or ground covers putting the white sign and the stick with the red and black flagging tape into the ground next to the plant.

The third group of volunteers worked in the lower planting area that is on the north side of the Hanford Stairs and near Cheasty Blvd. Their task was to see that all three markers had been left for each future plant.



When that task was finished, those volunteers moved to a different part of the site and cleaned out leaves and wood chips from the “donut holes” around the trees, shrubs and ground covers that had been planted in previous years. (When we plant, we put a four-inch layer of wood chips around each plant to hold in moisture. We keep the area close to the plant free of those wood chips. That area is referred to as the donut hole.)

The group also removed the leaves from one entire planting area. All of the leaves were taken to The Rack Zone. The areas looked so beautiful when the group finished their work.



Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration

Group 4

The group who had worked in the southeast section during the first part of the work party continued working there after the snack break. They finished digging out the root balls and then cut back the blackberry vines that are on the south edge of the property. (We have to leave a buffer zone between the neighbor's house and the Greenbelt so we will need to continue to cut back those vines throughout the year and for years to come.)

In the second photo below, you will see both the buffer zone and that there is a mound of dried debris that goes across the planting area. That area of the site is hilly. Numerous strips like that one were placed there last year in an attempt to prevent or reduce erosion.



We had accomplished so much during the three-hour work party. The new planting areas were all ready to receive the new plants. An added bonus was that the Franklin National Honor Society students want to volunteer here again!

Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration

Being Like a Bird Perched on a Dry Twig by Karuna



Amma teaches us to be like a bird perched on a dry twig, ready to fly at a moment's notice. We certainly had an opportunity to practice that teaching during our March 17 work party.

At the beginning of the work party, there were five team leaders present and ready for action. The plan for the day took an unexpected turn when none of our volunteers showed up.

The native shrubs and ground covers we planned to plant were bare root plants or plugs, so we didn't have the luxury of planting them over time; they had to be planted that day. When it became clear that the group wasn't going to come, the team leaders "rolled up their sleeves" and started planting the new plants themselves.

I called John (my neighbor) and asked if he would carry the wood chips we use for mulch to the various planting areas. Thankfully, he was available and came right away. With his help, we were able to finish the project by 2:00 pm!

I was too busy planting and carrying wood chips to take any photos during this work party but took pictures of some of the plants and planting areas later.



Pacific Rhododendron



Coastal Strawberry

Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration



Black Currant



Mock Orange



Blue Elderberry



Davidson's Penstemon area



Bunchberry area



Cedar Tree surrounded by Black Currant plants

If we were being “tested” on flexibility, persistence, letting go, accepting what is, doing whatever it takes, equanimity and/or being like a bird perched on a dry twig, I think we all passed the test!

PNW Litter Project

Kick Butts Work Party: March 4, 2019



This February was the coldest month in Seattle since 1940. The weather was unstable with the forecast changing day to day and sometimes hour to hour. March started off cold too. We were blessed when the prediction for full sun on March 4 stayed steady.

This was the 8th year that the GreenFriends PNW Litter Project held a cigarette butt pick-up work party in support of Kick Butts Day, a day of activism sponsored by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. Their vision:

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is a leading force in the fight to reduce tobacco use and its deadly toll in the United States and around the world. Our vision: A future free of the death and disease caused by tobacco. We work to save lives by advocating for public policies that prevent kids from smoking, help smokers quit and protect everyone from secondhand smoke.

The actual Kick Butts Day was on Wednesday March 20, but we had picked Sunday March 4 as our day to support their vision. Fifteen eager volunteers gathered in the International District at 10 a.m.

After signing in, the participants picked up gloves, bags to put their cigarette butts in, and litter grabbers if they wanted one. Once the volunteers were ready, they spread throughout the area.

PNW Litter Project



Sign in

Cigarette filters are NOT made of cotton, they are made of cellulose acetate tow, which is a form of plastic, and they can take decades to degrade. Investigators in a past San Diego State University study discovered that if you put fathead minnows and a single cigarette butt in a liter of water, half of the fish will die.

We take the attitude that every cigarette butt we pick up is one less that could end up being swallowed by a fish, bird or other form of wildlife. By sending them to [TerraCycle](https://www.terracycle.com/) to be recycled into plastic pallets, we also keep them out of the landfill.

Some years there are more butts on the ground than others. This year, in some areas, there were more butts than I have ever seen. The photos below were taken in front of a building that was a block from where we had gathered.



PNW Litter Project



Every member of the group worked diligently.



PNW Litter Project



Just before noon, everyone came back to the park. Once there, we each transferred the cigarette butts we had collected to the main bag.



It had been another fun and productive cigarette butt-pick-up work party. The next day the butts were on their way to TerraCycle. Once TerraCycle converted the weight of the butts to numbers, they credited us for turning in 7,100 butts!

PNW Litter Project

Kick Butts Day Stories and Reflections

Working for the Asian Art & History lecture series during the past two winters has made me feel closer to all-things-Asian. And so during our two-hour work party I felt more familiar with and affectionate towards the Mandarin signage, the Chinese zodiac metal plates on the sidewalk, and the Chinese nationals walking around on their turf. I spent about 10 minutes in one target-rich area where one Chinese national was taking a long smoke. I was wondering what he was thinking as he occasionally glanced at me as I was picking up so many butts near him. Was I laying a guilt trip on him? But I was pleased that when he finished his smoke, he walked over to me with a shy smile and put his cigarette stub into my bag. And I was also surprised when a little later an elderly lady walked up to me without saying a word and intently put her trash into the bag I was holding. All of this was going on while my headphones were feeding me a novel-on-tape whose setting was in a mainland Chinese neighborhood. (Of course, I went into a dim sum shop immediately upon finishing. Was vegan fare, no worries). ~Shawn

When I've shown up for Karuna's projects, whether it be Kick Butts, Plastic Project, litter pickup, greenbelt work, or crocheting afghans for a women's shelter, I'm always struck by how they exemplify the saying If you build it, they will come. Perhaps most of us enjoy the sense of camaraderie and accomplishment we get from working together on a service project—yet there are a million reasons that keep us from organizing such projects ourselves. I'm very grateful to Karuna for stepping in to fill that role. We get to share and support her passion while coming away with a sense of satisfaction in having contributed to something worthwhile, while having a few fun chats with people we might not have ordinarily seen—and it only took the effort to show up for a few hours on a weekend.

Even a guy off the street joined in to pick up cigarette butts for 20 minutes. How cool is that? He said he's learning Chinese and is teaching English at the nearby Buddhist temple. His reason for wanting to help get cigarette butts off the sidewalks is that his adult son picks them up and smokes the tobacco in a pipe. Yike! ~Lin Rose, Bellevue

Aparna invited two of her friends from school to the Kick Butts work party. It was their first time ever. Soon it became a contest between the three for gathering the most cigarette butts. In a matter of time, the competing attitude changed to the understanding that it is all going to one pool and it started to look like a team effort. As we kept picking butts, the conversation shifted to prevention ideas. Ideas such as imposing fines, banning cigarettes and rewarding communities for keeping areas clean were discussed.

We had fun together and were happy to have the opportunity to serve in this way. One of the kids's mom was curious about the benefit of picking butts off the streets. Her online research was shocking. An article in Business Insider, published in Dec 2018, stated that cigarette butts are the ocean's single largest source of trash. On learning this, she thanked us for taking her daughter to the Kick Butts work party. ~Prakash

PNW Litter Project

It was a beautiful day out, perfect for butt-picking-up seva! We got thanked several times from passersby. There were an incredible number of butts, and it basically took two hours for two of us to pick up a block's worth. The end result was a bagful of butts that were no longer littering the streets and were instead going to be sent off to be recycled... a morning well and joyously spent! ~Achala

As I pick up butts with my wife, I chuckle at what these old folks smoking cigarettes must think of us. Do they wonder if we are convicts working to get out of jail? Some obsessive-compulsives that really hate trash? A couple who lost a bet at the bar we're in front of picking up butts? All of the above?!

I doubt it occurs to them that we simply enjoy it. We enjoy serving the planet. We enjoy spending time with friends, and interacting with strangers, almost all of whom say "Thank you". We enjoy spending time as a couple doing something fun together. Simply put, we enjoy doing seva under the grace of Amma! ~Brad

I was shocked when I turned the corner a block away from our gathering place and saw more cigarette butts than I have seen in years. Every crack in the side walk was filled with butts. There were also dozens of butts on top of the sidewalk, on the earth, and in nearby grates. (See the photos in the previous article.) A woman walked out of a store and saw me sitting on the ground picking them up. She asked me why I was doing that. I told her that the butts are toxic, and we are picking them up so they don't get into the water or the stomachs of birds and other wildlife. I added that we send them to an organization that recycles them into plastic pallets which keeps them out of the landfill. She listened and then walked away without a word. I wondered if she would think about my response to her question. ~Karuna

PNW Litter Project

Litter Project Survey Results

During February and March, the PNW Litter Project conducted a Survey Monkey poll. The survey was sent to members of the PNW Litter Project and through the PNW Regional newsletter. It was also advertised through the PNW GreenFriends newsletter. While most of the forty-two respondents were from the Pacific Northwest, it was exciting to see that people from all over the world participated in the survey. They came from USA, Canada, India, and the UK. The results are listed below:

1. When you see litter on the ground how often do you pick it up?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Usually	40.48% (17)
Occasionally	45.24% (19)
Rarely	14.29% (6)
Never	0.00% (0)
TOTAL	42

2. In what situations do you prefer to do litter pick-up. Mark all that apply.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
On my own	73.17% (30)
With friends and family	36.59% (15)
As part of a work party	48.78% (20)
I'm not interested in picking up litter	4.88% (2)
Total Respondents	41

PNW Litter Project

3. Would you be interested in participating in litter pick-up work parties if they were available?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	53.66% (22)
Maybe	34.15% (14)
Probably Not	48.78% (20)
No	12.20% (5)
TOTAL	41

4. If you answered yes or maybe to question #3, in what city/state/province do you live?

Seattle area (Includes Seattle, Eastside, Sammamish, Shoreline, Snoqualmie)	14
Other Washington cities (Duvall, Everett, Tacoma, Skagit, Naches, Freeland, Spokane or unknown)	9
Oregon (Eugene, Seal Rock, Vida)	3
India	3
British Columbia (Qualicum Beach, Victoria)	2
California (Sacramento)	1
Iowa (Fairfield)	1
Idaho (Coeur d'Alene)	1
New Mexico (Deming)	1
New York (Watervliet)	1
United Kingdom (Finstock)	1
Total	37

PNW Litter Project

5. Are you willing to start reporting your litter pick-up times?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	24.39% (10)
No	24.39% (10)
Sometimes	24.39% (10)
I already report my litter pick-up times	26.83% (11)
TOTAL	41

6. Are you willing to be added to the "monthly request for litter pick-up minutes/hours" email list? If your answer to that question is yes, type your email address in the box that follows this question.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	15.00% (6)
No	17.50% (7)
Sometimes	67.50% (27)
TOTAL	40

7. Would you be willing to share a story or reflection relating to litter pick-up? These stories or reflections may be published in the PNW GreenFriends newsletter, the PNW regional satsang newsletter, the North America GreenFriends website or the North America e-news

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
On my own	73.17% (30)
With friends and family	36.59% (15)
As part of a work party	48.78% (20)
I'm not interested in picking up litter	4.88% (2)

PNW Litter Project

Total Respondents	41
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The stories and reflections that were included in the questionnaire were shared in our [last newsletter](#). They make such an important addition to the monthly reports. Please continue to share your experiences by sending them to karunap108@comcast.net.

One of the findings of the survey was that 87.8% of the people who responded answered “Yes” or “Maybe” when asked if they would be interested in attending litter pick-up work parties. Many of those individuals live outside of the Seattle area. If you were one of those people and you belong to a satsang, perhaps the satsang would be willing to sponsor a work party. If you don’t attend a satsang perhaps you could invite family or friends to join you, or work with a group in your community. The work parties are fun and are community building opportunities.

Another finding that stood out is that 48.7% of the respondents answered “Yes” or “Sometimes” to the question about whether they would be willing to start reporting their litter pick-up times. Another 26.8% said they already report their times. Having more people report will give us a better idea of the scope of the PNW Litter Project and may inspire others to help Mother Nature in this way.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the survey.

PNW Litter Project

Litter Stats

In March 2019, 46 Litter Project members and their friends picked up litter for 95.3 hours. (Average 2.1 hours; Median 1 hour; Range 2 minutes to 13 hours) We have picked up litter for 10,481 hours since the project began in July of 2011.

TerraCycle Stats

In March 2019, PNW GreenFriends sent TerraCycle 7,100 cigarette butts.

GreenFriends has sent them 355,724 cigarette butts, 394 drink pouches, 1,362 cereal bag liners, and 4,147 energy bar wrappers since 2013. [TerraCycle is an organization that recycles items which are normally considered unrecyclable.]



PAYDAY FOR LITTER PATROL by Willy

I looked again.... it was true! There among the donut crumbs, in the greasy brown paper bag, was money. Most of the time I find trash, just plain old trash. Lots of paper bags, beer cans, candy wrappers, and the ubiquitous plastic soda cup, but rarely money. Especially a bag full.

I realized a while ago that, when I walked my dog Rosie, I was in a position to help get litter off the streets of my neighborhood. And so I did. I cut a dashing figure wandering around the neighborhood with rubber gloves and a canvas bag. Oh, and Rosie leading every step of the way. Rosie, a smallish mix of a terrier, always enjoyed a good sniff at the base of a small free library that had sprouted in my neighborhood.

While she was sniffing all the local dog news, I would look through the free library. And there was the bag. Little did I know what a surprise was in store for me. I was upset that someone would leave trash on the book shelf, so I grabbed the bag and was about put it in my trash sack, when I looked inside. Donut crumbs, and, and, money... One hundred and twenty-seven dollars, and 35 cents! On my way home, I promised Rosie a big box of treats, for her part in the discovery.

PNW Litter Project

Saving for TerraCycle

Please save the items below and bring them to Amma's Seattle programs. Drop them off at the local GreenFriends table (Litter Project/ Greenbelt Restoration Project).

toothpaste tubes and caps
toothpaste cartons
outer tooth brush packaging
empty floss containers
toothbrushes
energy bar wrappers
drink pouches
cereal bags
cigarette butts

We will send these normally unrecyclable items to TerraCycle to be recycled. If you live in the Seattle area you can give them to Visala or Karuna anytime.

Interesting Information from Our Readers

From Lin in Bellevue:

[Goodbye Earth](#)

From Eileen in Seattle:

[Meet the Man Who Popularized the Viral #Trashtag Challenge Getting People Around the World Cleaning Up](#)

From Bhavesh in Shoreline:

[Is This the End of Recycling?](#)

From Karuna in Seattle:

[Mexican company converts avocado pits into completely biodegradable plastic](#)

From GreenFriends North America:

[Plastic Ocean](#)

[How to Recycle Styrofoam](#)

From Shobana in Shoreline:

[Viral Internet Challenge is Spurring People Around the World to Pick Up Tons of Trash and Then Snap Photos](#)

(this is same project as Eileen reported but has different stories)