



# Johnny Ipil-Seed News

*The quarterly newsletter of Trees for the Future*

Woodcutting of John Chapman  
courtesy of J.J. Lippincott

**Winter 2004 Vol. XII, No. 4**

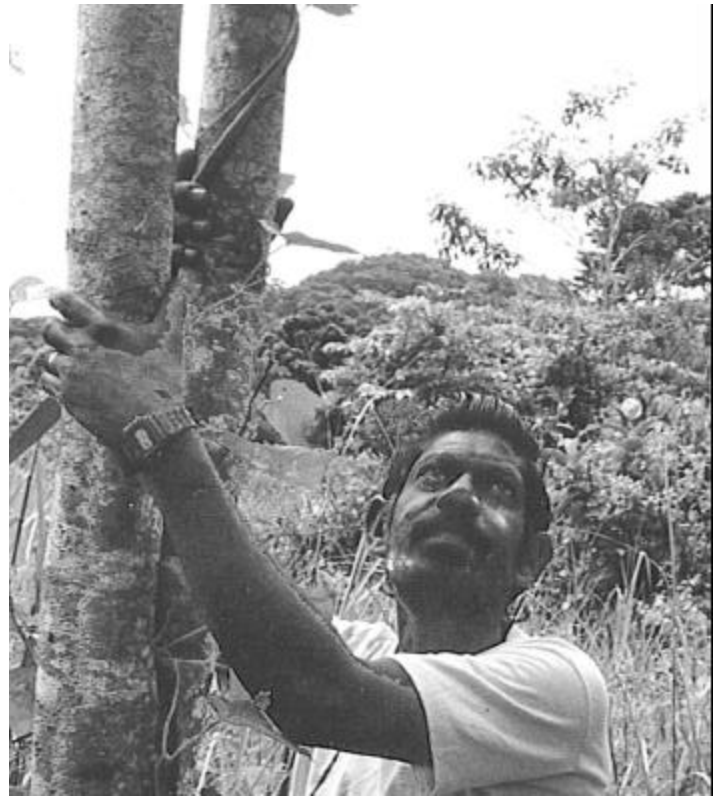
## Central America Update

**T**he demand for tree seeds keeps growing quickly in all the countries our program reaches. That especially includes Central America, and so Dave recently traveled to the region. His report:

In Belize, **Frank Brechin** met me at the airport and gave a report of recent happenings. It seems the country is in deep financial trouble; funds for a number of projects never became available. Many government employees are being laid off and unemployment is widespread. We visited Thara and Rigoberto Blanco, who have maintained the program of TREES BELIZE, despite the difficult times there. We hope to continue assisting their environmental education program for the year ahead.

### **The End of a Species?**

Through TREES BELIZE, we provided about 340,000 seeds of Belize Pine to a project hoping to save this species. Belize Pine is a slow-growing tree, with very dense wood, that was highly prized in the past for ship-building. As forests were cleared, the land



*The loss of the Belize Pine. Above right: TREES' representative **John Coleman** gazes up the trunk of one of our four-year old mahogany trees.*

was replanted despite our advice that they should not be planted as a single species. As happens so often with monocultures, it became weaker and more susceptible to disease with each new generation.

I passed many areas reforested with these trees. The recent hurricane and continuing infestation by the pine bark beetle have taken a toll: at least 60% of all the Belize Pine planted this way are dead or greatly damaged. We are working with several local organizations, planting species such as the Indian tree called mundani, as possible

Johnny Ipil-Seed News is a quarterly newsletter of TREES FOR THE FUTURE, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people of the world's poorest communities to begin environmentally beneficial, self-help projects.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink and is sent to all supporting members to inform them of recent events, plans, financial matters and how their support is helping people.

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## Senegal: The Technology Spreads with Appreciation

If you have read past articles on the project in Senegal, then you know we are helping communities save their lands and way of life. You know that trees are helping communities in the Department of Kaffrine protect and improve the very soil that must feed their families for generations. You know we've been by their side through locusts and droughts. You know that 20 new communities are asking to join the program. BUT did you realize the extent to which TREES Technicians serve as American ambassadors to communities of all religions around the world?



"The *Quran* says there is nothing better than planting a tree or digging a well," says **Babou Ndao**, a trainer at the *Maison Familiale* Association. "And you help us do both."

Not far from TREES' agroforestry training sites, the US Mission helped build a health

hut (where we helped plant beautiful shade trees), and since my days as the first Peace Corps Volunteer in the region - and more volunteers have followed - the entire region has become well aware of the goodness and generosity of the American people.

Wherever we go, not just in Senegal, people are most happy to learn that the help we give comes directly from the hands of concerned Americans - people who are very concerned for them and wish them a better life.

*Top: Passing out tens of thousands of tree seedlings with the help of local volunteers; Right: A farmers sitting next to his double-lined windbreak; Below: TREES' Technician John Leary discussing soil erosion with a Senegalese farmer.*



continued from page 1

## Central America Update continued

alternative sources of wood for construction.

### A Farm in Forest Home

Further south I met **Ruth** and **John Coleman** at their home near Punta Gorda. I suggested starting a tree seed propagation center on the land near their home. They think it's a great idea and, right away, we began walking the land, laying out a plan.

The area needed is small - less than three acres - but will produce seed from more than a dozen types of multi-purpose trees, including four types of *Leucaena*, two types of *Acacia* and *Albizia*, and three types of *Cassia* - over 600 trees in all. These will form a light canopy over the entire farm and the seed trees will be interspersed with fruit and hardwood species.

Located as it is along the major highway, we expect many visitors who, when receiving high quality seeds, will also see various ideas for inter-cropping, forage production, water conservation and erosion control.

### Trees for Twelve Towns in the Lake Region

Travelling on to Honduras, I met officers of the COMIXMUL women's cooperative in Siguatepeche. Now with more than 10,500 members, they have a plan to plant 1.4 million trees, in five communities, over the next three years.

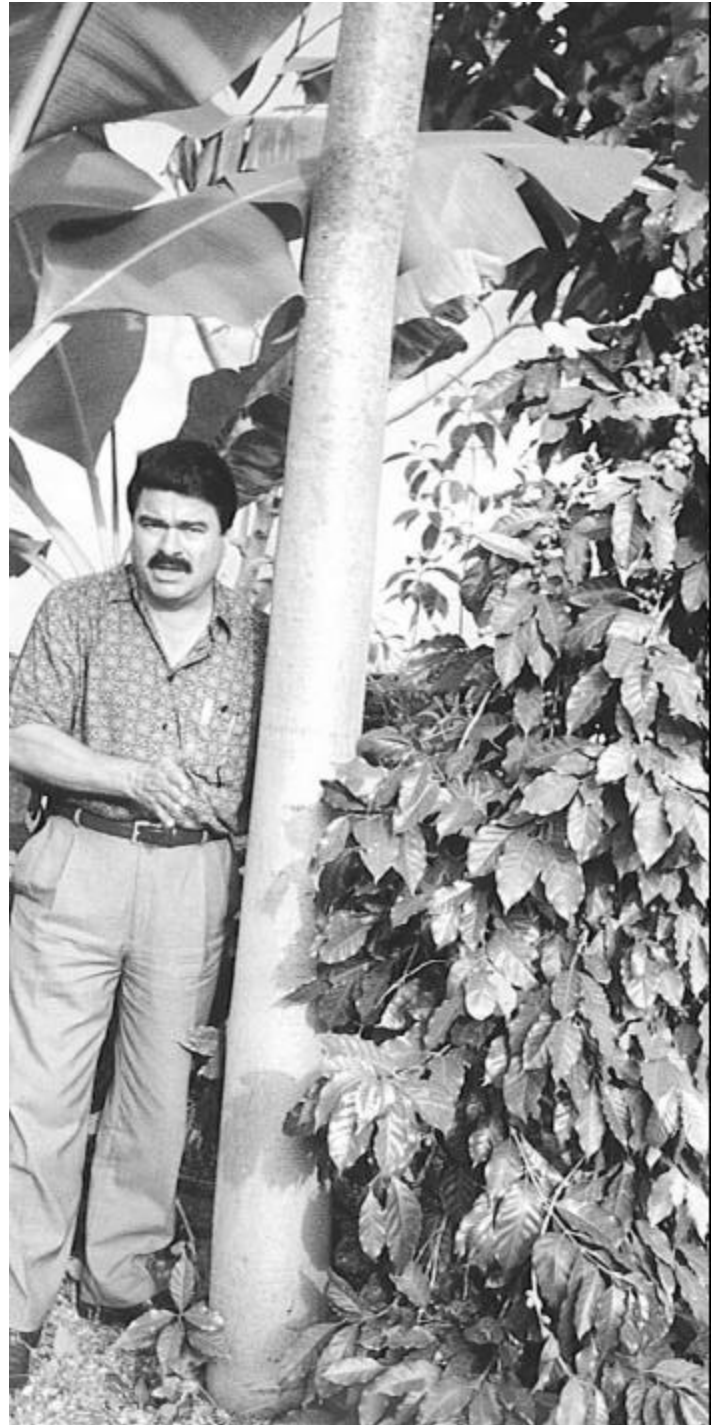
With our staff technician **Melissa Kolb**, who lives there, I traveled to meet **Oscar Ochoa**, President of SEMILLAS TROPICAL, where we now get much of our seed for the area. We spent the following day determining the needs for the program starting in January in the Lake Country. Melissa, with the technicians from the participating groups, has encouraged a dozen towns to join for the planting season that will soon begin.

We received more good news up the road at the shore of Lake Yojoa where we met **Jorge Betancourt**, Director of AMUPROLAGO, which is a union of local organizations attempting to save this greatly threatened resource.

**Jorge**, who was Associate Director for Natural Resources of Peace Corps/Honduras for more than 16 years, wants to be part of our team! He believes that, together, we can apply a Peace Corps-type approach to show people of the Lake Region how trees will improve their lives - while rebuilding the groundwater tables that can save the lake.

He offered, and we quickly accepted, a new home - right on the shore of Lake Yojoa and along the nation-

al highway in a building owned by the Ministry of Tourism. Now we have a place for training workshops, good communications with both the farmers' associations and the environmentally-concerned groups surrounding the Lake. It looks like a great year ahead for TREES in Central America.



*Oscar Ochoa, President of Setro seed company, shows Dave the rapid growth of the Mundani tree. This tree is three years old. Among its many uses is as a shade tree for coffee, as shown.*



## Four **Alternative Gifts**

### Let **TREES** do your Holiday shopping!

### Gifts that help the environment and give throughout the year



**US\$40.00**

Global Cooling Certificate

- > **Plants 400 Trees, enough to offset annual emissions of a large vehicle AND someone's vacation travel**
- > GC Certificate, Bumpersticker, and Window decal
- > The Johnny Ipil-Seed Quarterly Newsletter



**US\$50.00**

**Special Gift: The Moringa Kit**

Known as another **Miracle Tree** by agroforesters and farmers, **Moringa** is now grown around the world as a vitamin-rich food supplement for people and animals.

- > Packet of seeds with directions on growing.
- > A color booklet describing its amazing qualities and uses around the world,
- > Half of the fifty dollar donation will plant 250 Moringa trees in a project in Haiti, Senegal, or Ethiopia.
- > Call while supplies last 1-800-643-0001



**US\$90.00**

**Plant a Grove of 900 Trees & You Receive:**

- > A Plant-A-Grove Certificate and Bumpersticker
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- > A **FREE** One Year Subscription to E Magazine (A 20\$ Value)
- > Periodic updates about your community

Alternative Gift Donations of \$90.00 or more receive a **FREE** one year subscription to:



Certificates can be ordered at [www.treesfff.org](http://www.treesfff.org) or by calling 1-800-643-0001

Trees produce fruit, animal forage, rich organic fertilizer, nuts, medicine, and slow hillside erosion. There is not a community in the world that does not need more trees. Everywhere we go people are happy to learn that the help we give comes directly from the hands of concerned Americans.

## News at the Ruppe Center

**Miria** from **Uganda**, **Reggie** from **Ghana**, **Father Jean Claude** from **Congo**, and **Father Boniface** from **Senegal** all made visits to the Ruppe Center in the month of October for the same reason: to launch tree planting projects in their native homelands.

**Miria** is working with the Church of Uganda to reforest three regions in eastern Uganda. **Fr. Jean Claude** founded the Jatukik Foundation in Congo and needs **TREES'** help in selecting and planting beneficial trees at ecovillages he is helping establish. As the project in Ghana develops, you will likely hear more: it is combining a strong effort of vegetable production with the planting of a wide array of trees. **Father Boniface** is concerned about hardwood species in his native region of Casamance and was glad to hear the **John** will visit his parish next time he makes a field trip to Senegal.

Everyday we help projects like these design solid action plans to implement tree planting projects world-wide.



*John, Sylvie, and Grace standing with Father Boniface of Senegal (behind on the left) and Father Jean Claude from Congo (right).*

## TREE PALS: Revived and Revised

In 1994, Trees For The Future started a program for 4th and 5th grade students that combined environmental education with social action and cross-cultural exchange. Students were engaged in planting trees to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, as well as raising money for students in foreign countries to plant trees at their schools. Now, a decade later, TREES is reviving that program and updating its curriculum without losing the caring spirit and world-wide perspective that were fundamental to the original project.

Still in development, **Tree Pals** is an environmental education program for Grades 3-8 that engages students in hands-on scientific exploration while fostering a sense of stewardship. The program is designed to educate students about

the importance of trees and ecosystems, from scientific, social and economic perspectives. It will also help to empower students to take actions to restore the environment in their communities, and to provide a global perspective of nature and its role in human society. The curriculum is centered on scientific investigation of the student's neighborhood habitat, but it also encourages broader awareness of the role of trees and plants in both ecosystems and as natural resources.

A flexible program to fit most any school curriculum, there are many various activities for students to learn both outdoors and in the classroom. Participating schools will be provided lesson plans and activity



guides, and teachers will be invited to attend workshops to further their knowledge of related subjects. In collaboration with local and statewide organizations, specialists and volunteers will be available to give

lectures for parents and the school community, to assist with program activities, and to provide expertise and guidance for both students and teachers alike.

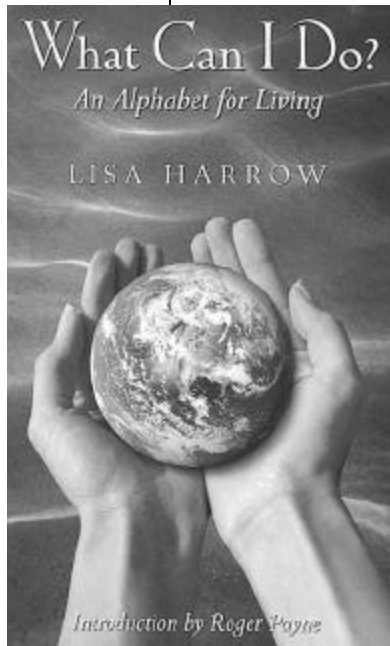
We are looking for schools to help us implement the **Tree Pals** program beginning this winter and spring! If you would like more information or would like to get involved with the Tree Pals program, please email Eric Jacobson at [eric@treesfff.org](mailto:eric@treesfff.org).

## Green Festival

Trees for the Future was one of 350 Green Exhibitors at Washington DC's first Green Festival, September 18-19. We networked with as many of the 15,334 like-minded artists, speakers, advocates, businesses, and participants as we could - signing up new members and teaching participants about the sustainable land use including tree planting.

One of hi-lights, besides the free Stonyfield yoghurt, was our visit from **Actress Lisa Harrow**. Lisa, a speaker at the Festival, has played many lead roles in theater, film, and television. Her new book, *What Can I Do? An Alphabet for Living*, features TREES' founders, Dave and Grace Deppner, as 'People Who Did.' Copies of "What Can I Do?" are available for \$7.95 at [chelseagreen.com](http://chelseagreen.com).

We thank Lisa and the Green Festival for the opportunity to reach so many environmentally-concerned people.



## Trying to Save Energy

Who could have guessed that our office has too many shade trees to make the use of solar panels feasible? After meeting at the Green Festival in



September, **Richard Deutschmann**, of **Chesapeake Wind & Solar LLC**, visited the Ruppe Center to conduct a solar site assessment - the bottom line: too many trees. Instead he recommended an energy audit which should be able to identify conservation techniques that we have addressed yet.

The technicians at **Chesapeake Wind & Solar** combine for over 30 years of designing and installing renewable energy systems.

Though there won't be any solar in our future, we pointed out to Richard that trees are solar energy for most of the world, and we're helping the world plant them.

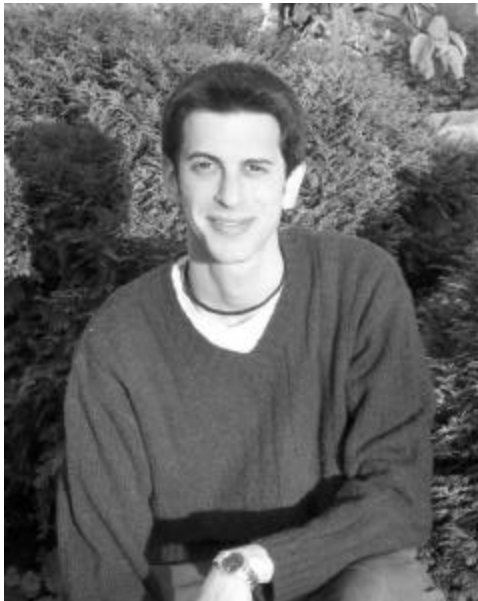
## Introducing Eric Jacobson

Eric comes to us from New York by way of the University of Pennsylvania where he earned his degree in biology.

After studying and volunteering in Costa Rica and Panama, Eric worked for the Discovery Creek Children's Museum in Washington, DC.

He is now heading up our Tree Pals Program through US

schools and working to expand our tree planting efforts here at home. If you have any questions or ideas for Eric, he wants to hear from you!



## From Russia with Love

The **Farmer to Farmer** Program, which often sends TREES' Technicians to tropical developing countries, needed an expert in chicken and turkey production who also has an MBA - Dave was the only candidate for the quick consulting trip. "Anyone with an MBA is smart enough not to raise chickens and turkeys," jokes Dave. We'll have a full report in our next newsletter.



*Making new friends: Dave with Tatyana and Vachislav Dorozhkina at their farm in Yalanka, Saradova.*

## Opinion: About Green Charcoal



We've long held that, of itself, there's nothing wrong with burning wood as fuel - if it is done correctly. More than half the world uses wood as their primary fuel source, often for lack of alternatives. More often for lack of money.

Wood is called environmentally friendly: although it sends carbon into the atmosphere, new trees are growing to replace the ones that were burned, removing even more carbon than the burning caused. So our quarrel is not with those who use trees but, rather, with those who cut down trees (often the wrong species) and don't replace them.

By now I've surely stirred up plenty of comments: is it, then, all right to cut down an ancient forest and replace it with a "tree farm" (as we have been doing across this country for more than a century)? No, for the same reason you help us save and bring back endangered diversity all around the world - climate change isn't our only worry.

And what about the age-old saying "waste not, want not"? Again, we spend a lot of your generous support introducing fuel-efficient stoves and other applications and, at home, stressing the critical need to develop alternate fuels.

A while back I was having breakfast with **Philippine Governor Amor Deloso** and his wife **Sally** - mayor of Botolan Town. Gov commented, "in the last election I won by over 4,000 votes. Sally won by only 17. Know why?"

Sally's nostrils were starting to flare. "Because she pushed through a law banning sale of charcoal."

Botolan's population includes over 5,000 aborigine people, called "Aetas," living in the upland barrios where the forests were cleared a century ago and, for a number of reasons, including charcoal selling, the forests never came back.

And now the famous DeLoso bite: "So, Dave, what do you say about it?", putting me squarely between hus-

band and wife.

My answer: "well, there's black charcoal and then there's green charcoal. I think we should ban black charcoal and encourage producing the green kind." (Obviously this answer failed to satisfy either side, but it at least brought them together so they could turn all their frustrations against me) - "What's this green charcoal thing he's trying to hand us?"

So I explained that "green charcoal" means it's sustainably produced. It requires planting trees, in fact, planting the kinds of trees that can be harvested time and again, always growing back faster after each harvest. Yes, the wood is burned but the leaves (that's over 60% of the biomass of these trees) continuously go

right back adding humus to the soil. The trees also provide a number of other important services.

It took some convincing but eventually the idea stuck. The law has been somewhat modified. All sides seem to be fairly pleased and, bit by bit, those uplands are turning green again.

This brings us around to the first rule of development, which includes environmental development, which is: **Don't break anybody's rice bowl.** Upland peoples throughout the Developing World are routinely blamed for activities that actually hasten their own demise. Haiti, this year, is the prime example, where entire villages wander the upland watersheds, cutting anything they can turn into *charbon*. Because nearly all cooking in Haiti is done with charcoal, there is always a ready market - often the only money families can earn.

These families are forced to make a tough choice: they know this is destroying the land and, with it, their future. But their children need food today!

This choice doesn't have to be made. Green charcoal is only one of a great number of proven ideas we introduce that can better their lives - and rebuild the land - all at the same time.

For the year ahead, please help us reach more of these families, while there is still time to avoid tragedies such as came to Haiti this year.



*The hydra: After the first branch of this Madre de Cacao tree in Haiti was harvested, seven new branches regrew.*

**In This Issue**



**Report from Belize and Honduras**

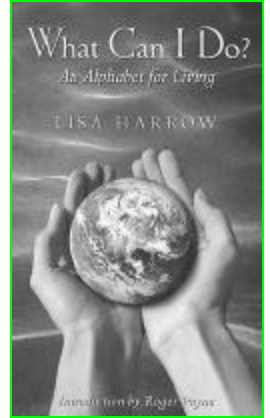
**NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

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**BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

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