



SEEDS OF CHANGE

Celebrating 20 Years of Planting Trees & Growing Communities in Utah!

April 2010

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Dirty Little Secrets of the Greatest Snow on Earth

What are climate change, dust and pollution doing to our snow?

Lecture-Discussion

April 28th, 7:00 pm

Jewish Community Center, 2nd Floor
2 North Medical Drive

The JCC presents an insider's look at the Greatest Snow on Earth. University of Utah professors Tom Painter and Jim Steenburgh examine the real reasons why Utah powder skiing is so incredible and evaluate the threats posed to Utah snow by climate change, dust and pollution deposition.

Free and open to everyone. Donations collected will benefit **Tree Utah** and the Jewish Community Center.

A 20 YEAR HISTORY OF TREEUTAH

BY VAUGHN LOVEJOY
ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AND ECOGARDEN COORDINATOR

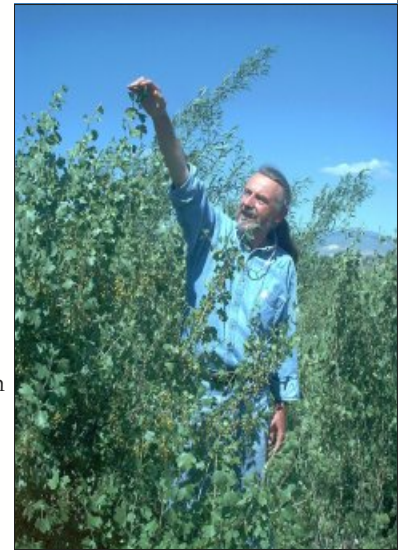
In 1987, a city contracted tree-cutting crew wanted to remove two 75-year-old ash trees in front of Pepper Provenzano's home, following the removal of six trees from the adjacent block a day earlier. Pepper called the Salt Lake City Urban Forester and won a temporary reprieve which later became permanent but not before he learned that most of Salt Lake City 's trees were in declining condition and the City only had a five-man crew to handle 46,500 street trees. He also learned that about 800 trees must be removed from public areas each year while only 400 can be planted due to limited funds.

Pepper recognized a need for creating an organization dedicated to urban forestry and the stewardship of trees. TreeUtah was established on Arbor Day in April of 1989 through a proclamation by then Salt Lake City mayor Palmer DePaulis. In the spring of 1990, Vaughn Lovejoy independently launched an Earth Day planting which brought together 350 volunteers to plant 4,000 native trees in the Wasatch Mountains. This was shortly followed by much publicized and well attended ceremonial tree planting event that Pepper organized at Pioneer State Park in which a total of 62 full size trees were planted on the grounds.

Tony Dietz from the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands who had helped both Pepper get TreeUtah off the ground and helped Vaughn organize the 1990 Earth Day planting suggested that we partner up. So with Tony's suggestion in April of 1990, Pepper's organization TreeUtah merged with Vaughn's community organizing skills and TreeUtah made it's mark on the map. In August, 1990, TreeUtah received it's official 501(c)3 non-profit status, and by the end of 1990, TreeUtah had organized well over a thousand volunteers to plant over 14,800 trees.

By far the most notable tree planting that year was in November when TreeUtah came together with many partners to organize a massive tree planting in response to the violent fire of August which burned nearly 3,000 acres of Wasatch Mountain State Park near Heber City, destroyed 18 homes and claimed the lives of two firefighters. On the morning of Saturday November 17th, over 700 volunteers arrived at the Midway Town Hall to be bussed to various locations on the mountain where they were met by trained TreeUtah volunteers with bundles of bareroot seedlings to be planted. By the end

Continued on Page 2



Vaughn Lovejoy standing amidst mature Golden Currants and Coyote Willow planted in 1998 along the Jordan River. When planted they were tiny seedlings. Now they are over 8ft tall.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Greetings TreeUtah supporters! We have been very busy over the last several weeks preparing for our planting season, gearing up our programs as well as planning our 20th anniversary celebration as Utah's only statewide, 501(c)3 non-profit tree planting organization, which will culminate at this year's Tree Huggers' Ball, our annual fundraiser, in September (exact date TBA).

This year, we are fortunate enough to have three awesome AmeriCorps interns on-board; Meg Osswald, Supreet Gill, and Gena Christie, who you can read more about later in this newsletter. They will be filling the critical roles of Ecological Restoration & EcoGarden Assistant, Environmental Education Assistant, and Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, respectively. These positions will greatly increase our capability to reach more communities through a variety of projects and provide greater environmental education opportunities. I would like to sincerely thank Salt Lake County Mayor

Peter Corroon's Million Tree Program that through a rejuvenated partnership with TreeUtah, has allowed us to bring on Gena to coordinate our volunteer and outreach events in support of the County's Million Tree initiative.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several individuals and organizations that deserve special recognition. First off, a huge thank you to Britt Retzlaff, the editor of our newsletter since 2008! At that time she was serving as TreeUtah's EcoGarden Steward AmeriCorps intern; however, she has graciously offered to continue as our newsletter editor since that time. In addition to our gratitude, I ask you all to join me in congratulating her on her new position she just accepted as a Calypso Farm Apprentice in Fairbanks, Alaska!

I am also excited to announce several new partnerships that we have developed over the last few months, including: Zoom Real Estate, who will make an unrestricted donation to TreeUtah with every real estate closing made through their brokerage; so if you are in the real estate market,

check them out, and be sure to mention that you were referred to them from TreeUtah and they will increase their donation! For more information, please contact Brandon at brandon@zoomrealty.com or 801-999-8084.

TransWest Credit Union, who will match donations to TreeUtah up to \$10 for any TWCU member opening a Green Checking or Savings account or any member who converts to paperless eStatements. Finally, I would also like to sincerely thank Henricksen Butler Services for another very generous donation of office furniture in 2010; 10,000 Villages for hosting our organization through their Community Shopping Night in December, 2009; and Laser Experts for providing TreeUtah with critical printing supplies. Please check them out as your "green" printing experts. Thank you all, we couldn't do our important work without your critical support!

Jeff Ward
Executive Director

History of TreeUtah continued from Page 1

of the day over 9,200 seedlings had been planted in what one professional forester thought may have been the largest, most successful volunteer planting of its kind that had occurred in the United States at that time.

Another major program which began in 1990 was our Plant A Family Tree Program. This program included a partnership with local nurseries to encourage families to purchase and plant trees in their own yards. Over the years this program has gone through many changes and adaptations but since its inception over 89,000 trees have been planted around the state.

In November of 1992, we began a two year project with then Utah Power and Light in which we planted 1,204 full sized shade trees in twelve communities. These plantings were done in conjunction with the Cool Communities Program. The focus of these plantings was to reduce energy consumption by placing trees in areas where they could provide optimum shading for homes.

In 1995, we began planting along the Jordan River riparian corridor in a partnership with Salt Lake County which led to long-term partnerships with Great Salt Lake Audubon Society, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services and other organizations. Through these various programs and partnerships we have planted over 128,000 trees and shrubs along the Jordan River floodplain. This year we will be completing our plantings along the Jordan River.

Looking back after all these years there are so many worthy projects that I could mention. In addition to tree planting we have also considered our mission to educate people of all ages about the benefits that trees have in our communities. We have worked with students from kindergarten to college. We have received awards of recognition from various organizations. TreeUtah is designed to facilitate local tree planting projects, lend technical support by overseeing community tree plantings, organize and mobilize volunteers, as well as educate and train the public in tree stewardship. We also serve as a catalyst in developing the community alliances that are critical to preserving Utah's urban and community forests. To date TreeUtah has helped plant over 350,000 trees from the help of over 120,000 volunteers that have donated over 200,000 volunteer hours.

As we look to the future as an organization we will be exploring new options to work toward not only inspiring a vision of sustainable communities but a vision of our valley transformed into an urban ecological paradise. The seeds of this vision were planted over century ago by the original pioneers along the banks of City Creek stream.

SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.TREEUTAH.ORG

The following events are open to public participation. Plantings will begin with a short on-site tree planting workshop and then we'll dig in. Most sessions last between 2 and 4 hours. There will be numerous community plantings held around the State, please check our website or call our office for more information. Also, check out free yoga classes taught by TreeUtah's own Supreet Gill.

Please call the TreeUtah office (801) 364-2122 to let us know you are coming and we'll give you specific directions to the planting site. Wear sturdy shoes, clothes that can get dirty, a hat, and bring sunscreen, drinking water, and a shovel if you have one. See you there!

Saturday April 3rd, 9am
Open Planting @ South Jordan Restoration Site

Friday April 30th, (Arbor Day), 6pm
Sustainable Gardening and Introduction to Permaculture
Cactus & Tropicals, 2735 South 2000 East, Salt Lake City

Saturday May 1st, 9am
Open Planting @ South Jordan Restoration Site

Saturday May 1st, 9am
Trees for Eagles Grove Launch @ Redwood Natural Area

We will be planting native trees and shrubs at the Redwood Natural Area with volunteers. Creating a spiral labyrinth of native trees and shrubs to create animal habitat. Volunteers will also be able to preview the impressive habitat restoration effort taking place on the entire Redwood Natural Area site.

Monday May 3rd, 9am
Trees for Eagles Grove Planting @ Redwood Natural Area

Thursday May 27th, 8pm
Owl Prowl @ Redwood Natural Area

Head out with TreeUtah for a full moon celebration to listen for Owls and observe our resident Red-Tailed Hawks on their active nest site. Bring your binoculars, field guides, and adventurous spirit. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Redwood Natural Area at sunset.

Every Monday, 5:30-6:45 pm
Free Yoga Classes @ Redwood Recreation Center

Come practice your tree pose! The goal of this gentle yoga class is to make yoga accessible to everyone. This class will be slow paced to allow the body to open and the mind to fully relax while developing strength and concentration. Mats will be provided, just bring yourself and an open mind. Taught by TreeUtah's Supreet Gill. Any donations will go to TreeUtah's Trees for Eagles Project. E-mail for more information supreet@treeutah.org

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WELCOME NEW TREEUTAH STAFF!



Supreet Gill
Environmental Education Assistant

I lived on an organic, biodynamic farm in California for a year after the completion of my formal education. During my stay in a warm and wonderful community, I learned about Permaculture and green living. I was able to gain hands on experience working on various planting and restoration projects as well as organic gardening, natural building techniques, water retention and regeneration. It felt really good to me to make a difference and to know that everyone of us has the capacity to live in harmony with our world, its inhabitants, and to use resources wisely. Life was flowing smoothly and my sense of self, community and natural world was deepening day by day. Just as I was beginning to grow roots in the community, I was exposed to the ferocity and grandeur of nature in the form of a fire and a flood.

Experiencing two natural disasters within three months changed the trajectory of my life completely. I relocated to Utah to live with my partner and find some stability. My experiences had left me feeling raw, yet, had empowered me to make conscious, practical, and joyful choices. I was committed to helping build awareness of environmental issues and to providing effective environmental stewardship. I had a compelling vision and an inspiring action plan for a conscious, sustainable future; I just needed to find my tribe within the community that would nourish and encourage me to pursue these goals.

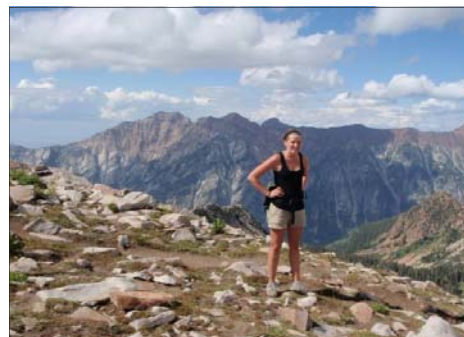
At TreeUtah I found this and much, much more. I was really inspired by the core values and beliefs of the non-profit and knew that the projects and services being offered were extremely necessary and valu-

able in today's world. I knew I wanted to be a part of this great team of visionaries, and the Environmental Educator Internship was just the kind of opportunity I had been seeking. Considering the immense challenges that we as a society face on so many levels, this internship offers me a great way for me to create solutions and answers to some of the most pressing questions in relation to our immediate environment and social systems. I am looking forward to planting trees and creating wonderful educational programs that will inspire children and adults, and insure that we always have conscious stewards of the environment in the future. I feel this year will be deeply fulfilling and satisfying on many levels, and I am excited to see where it takes me.



Gena Christie
Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator

Eugenia Christie more commonly known by friends as Gena, grew up on a farm in a rural community in northern Vermont, a back woods kind of place. She graduated from the University of Vermont with a bachelor's in Environmental Studies. Her love of the outdoors and riding her bike inspired her to sell her Subaru before moving across the states to this great mountainous City. She admits to having a great affinity for ice cream on a sunny afternoon. Becoming an intern for TreeUtah is going to be an amazing and exciting learning endeavor. She is looking forward to meeting many volunteers and community members to plant trees, and talk about how wonderful and refreshing planting can be.



Meg Osswald
EcoGarden and Restoration Assistant

I graduated from Westminster College's Environmental Studies Program in December, and started working with TreeUtah in February. Not being in school for the first time I can remember is new, scary, and confusing, but TreeUtah feels like the right place for me to start figuring out what to do with my life outside of academia. I have no idea how I want to use my Environmental Studies degree to "save the world," but it would be impossible to argue that planting trees isn't a good place to start.

Everyone says that they love to be outside, but I really mean it. For me the opportunity to be outside more often than not that living in Utah offers seems almost a necessity to my sanity. Not only does working with TreeUtah allow me to work and be outside at the same time, the work I am doing will help to ensure the future existence of these wild spaces that I love. It's a good feeling. The opportunity to work not only on TreeUtah's restoration site, but also in the EcoGarden improves on perfection by adding food to the mix. Wild spaces like the restoration site can give wilderness lovers like me a psychological refuge, but in the grand scheme of things, leave us hungry. Unlike the places where much of our food comes from, the EcoGarden feels healthy, wild, natural, and alive- physically and mentally sustaining, a twofer.

Over the next year I look forward to enjoying the wonderful outdoor spaces that TreeUtah has created, and probably learning more than I could ever imagine. I hope that I can be everything a good intern should be by helping TreeUtah's cause in any way I am capable of.

INTRODUCING... TREES FOR EAGLES AND THE EDIBLE FOREST GROVE

Trees for Eagles/Edible Forest Grove is a new program that uses native tree planting to both restore vital eagle and wildlife habitat in the riparian zone along the Jordan River in West Valley City, and to educate children and adults about the importance of trees in their living environment.

TreeUtah's Trees for Eagles/Edible Forest Grove will serve as an educational site and tree planting demonstration area for school groups during the summer and for adult natural history field trips that will run monthly starting this spring. This project will provide a great opportunity for community members to re-establish a connection with the natural world of trees, gain knowledge of edible fruits from native plants and the tree/shrub complex used by the eagle and other raptors and wildlife.

The official launch of the Grove is scheduled for Saturday May 1st (see spring events on page 3). We hope you will join us for this tree planting adventure or for our monthly nature walks that begin April 3. Please check out the calendar below. Note that pre-registration is required for fieldtrips. E-mail Supreet Gill at supreet@treeutah to RSVP or for more information. Events take place at the Redwood Natural Area and start from the Redwood Recreation Center (3060 S. Redwood Rd.) Please wear comfortable clothing, shoes, and bring sun protection.

Trees for Eagles: Great Expectations Fieldtrips and Walks

April 3, 9-11am

Wild Wonderful Wetlands

A sneak peak at who's at home in our fabulous new wetlands with Naturalist par excellence Ty Harrison, professor emeritus at Westminster College.

April 13, 7-8pm

Tree Frogs Sing!

An evening walk with TreeUtah's Senior Forester Hob Calhoun to hear the sounds of spring from our stellar wetlands and woodlands along the Jordan River.

May 8, 1-3pm

Spiral Action in a Tree Labyrinth

Explore the brand new Spiral Tree Labyrinth at the Redwood Natural Area with Naturalist par excellence Ty Harrison, professor emeritus at Westminster College.

May 11, 7-8pm

Who's Singing in That Tree?

Who's that singing? Why do birds sing? How do they learn to sing? An evening sunset walk with TreeUtah's Senior Forester Hob Calhoun.

June 8, 7-8pm

Red Wings and Red Tails

A great opportunity to have an up close and personal look at some of our native nesting birds with Hob Calhoun. Learn how trees and birds depend on each other.

June 12, 9-11am

Ecology of the Jordan River Floodplain

A foray into nature with and the captivating history of this valuable natural area Naturalist Ty Harrison.

July 10, 9-11am

Voracious Beavers- They're Back!

The fascinating story of how beavers and the trees they eat have changed the world. Ty Harrison, biology professor emeritus at Westminster College.

July 13, 7-8pm

Hang Out with Birds

TreeUtah's Hob Calhoun will talk about our native birds and what trees and shrubs will attract them to your yard. Also, bird baths, food, nest boxes, etc.

Interested in Volunteering?

Spiral Grove Walk and Volunteer Orientation will take place second Monday of the month. Meet Supreet Gill, TreeUtah's Environmental Education Assistant at 7pm. Dates: 4/12, 5/10, 6/14, 7/12, etc.

 **TRANSWEST CREDIT UNION CELEBRATES EARTH DAY BY PARTNERING WITH TREEUTAH**

Beginning on April 22, Earth Day, TWCUCU will match donations to TreeUtah up to \$10 for any member opening or switching to a Green Checking or Savings account or any member who converts to paperless eStatements!

TWCUCU is encouraging it's members to open Green Checking/Savings accounts and choose paperless eStatements to help save trees and honor precious resources.

AGENT FROM ZOOM REAL ESTATE TO MAKE UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS TO TREEUTAH WITH EVERY CLOSING

Brandon Hacker, Real Estate Professional with Zoom Real Estate has offered to make an unrestricted donation to Tree Utah with every real estate closing deal he handles. Even better, he will increase his donation if your business is referred to him from our organization, so if you are planning on selling or buying a home, contact Brandon and be sure to tell him that TreeUtah sent you!

Brandon Hacker
801-999-8084 or visit
<http://brandon.zoomutah.com>

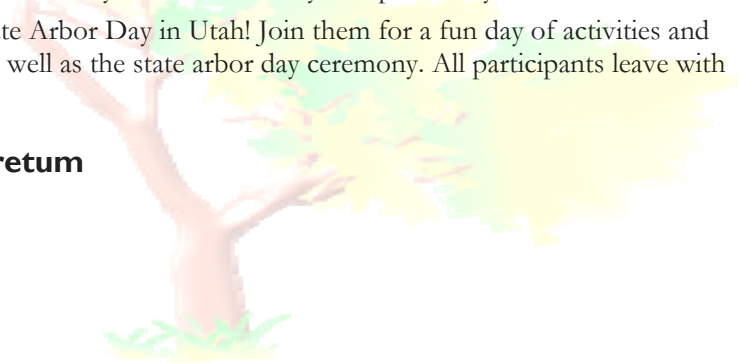
CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY!

Arbor Day was first held in Nebraska on April 10, 1872. Julius Sterling Morton was the person responsible for creating this special day. He got people to participate in the statewide celebration by offering prizes to the individuals and counties that planted the most trees. It is estimated that over 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on that first Arbor Day!

In the years following that first Arbor Day, Morton's idea spread beyond Nebraska and today all 50 states celebrate Arbor Day in keeping with their local climates. Utah celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday of April each year.

There's no better place than Red Butte Garden to celebrate Arbor Day in Utah! Join them for a fun day of activities and interactive exploration stations throughout the Garden as well as the state arbor day ceremony. All participants leave with a tree to take home and plant!

Location: Red Butte Garden and Arboretum
Date: Friday, April 30th
Time: 9am-3pm
Address: 300 Wakara Way
Cost: Free!



URBAN ORCHARD: BRINGING PERMACULTURE INTO THE COMMUNITY

BY MEG OSSWALD, RESTORATION AND ECOGARDEN ASSISTANT

Walking through seemingly undisturbed old growth rainforest in Southeastern Costa Rica, I was shocked to stumble upon someone's homestead, even though that someone was the indigenous Costa Rican woman leading us there. Without any trace that I could see, not even a trail, the Bri Bri tribe, of which our leader Mara and her family are members, have lived in this forest for hundreds of years. Somehow, they have integrated their entire livelihood into this forest without destroying it, or even altering it a mentionable amount. I was amazed. Their total harmony with nature was like nothing I had ever seen. In this integrated environment, the Bri Bri have produced healthy fruit- and chocolate- for their communities by integrating the cacao trees into the forests in which they live. Recently, an attempt to commercialize this system resulted in a blight which killed thousands of trees and destroyed any possibility of commercialized chocolate production. I'd love affordable high quality chocolate as much as anyone, but something about the integration that the Bri Bri practiced kept these trees healthy, and when it was lost, they failed. This story is meant to represent an array of environmental issues we are facing, but more importantly great potential.

The big picture is that it's possible to sus-

tain our lives in total harmony with nature, something I'd never had the opportunity to see first hand, and maybe more importantly that this harmonious relationship may actually be necessary. We can't all go to see indigenous tribes living in the rain forests of Costa Rica, and we definitely can't bring them here, but we can create proof of the possibilities and meet the need to have a mutually beneficial relationship with our environment. TreeUtah's EcoGarden and community orchard program will serve to engage communities along the Wasatch front in educational stewardship activities, while meeting vital needs of the community by providing fresh food and green spaces to its residents.

TreeUtah's community orchard program would create education and awareness, through demonstration. Before Costa Rica I had no idea that pineapples grow in the ground, or that coffee beans are red, despite my love for both. For most residents of the Wasatch Front, all food comes from the grocery store, not the ground, from a brightly colored package instead of a red bean. This system compromises our knowledge and the connection to food and the land that it comes from. It is hard to be concerned about the land where our food comes from if

we know nothing about it. Harder yet to realize the value of good food. The potential positive repercussions of making this connection are endless.

The second part of the picture, beyond education, is the practical. The cacao trees of Costa Rica tell a story that applies to any natural environment. What I mean is, the mutually beneficial relationship doesn't only sound like a nice idea to us tree planting folks, this kind of relationship is the only kind that is sustainable in the long run. Permaculture food forests, like our EcoGarden and the ones that our community orchard program strives to create, are based upon principles that aim to make them sustainable into the future.

Still, these concepts are difficult to grasp in the form of a story about a walk in the jungle. That's what makes a program like TreeUtah's community orchard important. TreeUtah's hope for the program is that the organic orchards it creates will be emulated by other organizations and by independent communities. Ideally, communities will see the importance of the project in the same way that we do, and will be as excited as we are.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

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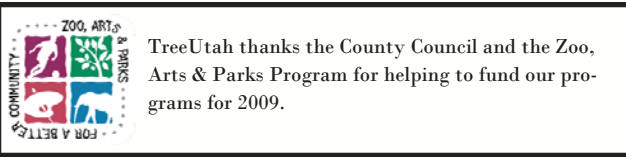
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