

Inspiring Action

It has been a month since I flew to California to join the Archangel Tree Climbing Expedition. In the weeks since, I have had time to reflect on the expedition and ponder the future.

As I reflect back on the expedition, I realize how lucky I am. The people I met were an amazing collection of dedicated, hard-working, fun-loving, adventurous souls. How else could you explain a group that was made up of volunteers who climbed trees over 200 feet high to gather cuttings to make into new “old growth” trees, intended to help avert the disaster we call climate change?



And what about those trees, the real stars of the week? It is as if these ancient trees are the guardians of the planet, watching over us even though we humans are unaware; or like being in a natural cathedral that is so magnificent one feels closer to God simply by being there. They do reach into the heavens, after all.

I actually had a foretaste of that feeling when in April 2016 I discovered a grove of 21 coast redwoods in the Washington Park Arboretum here in Seattle. This grove is about 80 years old and about 80 feet tall. They are mostly in a circle, so the feeling when standing in the middle of them is like being in Nature's Cathedral. Their branches almost touch at the top, like a heavenly spire.

As I ponder the future, I think about the planet and how in need of healing it is. **Inspiring others by taking action is so important! It is critical to the success of any attempt to make significant change in the world!**

The action that Archangel is taking is very inspirational. Along with their achievements in cloning ancient champion trees, inspiring people is one of Archangel's greatest gifts. Others have taken inspirational actions as well, such as those featured in the [Sources of Inspiration](#) section of my blog.

When [Wangari Maathai](#) started the Green Belt Movement to plant 30 million trees in Kenya, she inspired 9-year old [Felix Finkbeiner](#) to come up with the idea that children of the world

could plant 1 million trees in every country on Earth. A [Plant-for-the Planet](#) campaign was launched by Felix in 2009 which inspired students across Germany to get involved.

By 2011 there were children from more than 93 countries participating in Plant-for-the-Planet and the goal of planting a million trees had been reached. The Plant-for-the-Planet initiative eventually inspired the United Nations to launch their [Billion Tree Campaign](#), which as of 2016, has resulted in over **14 billion trees planted world-wide**.

That is a huge benefit to the planet resulting from people inspired to take action. A virtual “domino effect” of inspired actors in turn inspired others, who then took action which inspired others.

What kind of inspiring action can each of us take? If we could do something with these amazing trees, it would demonstrate that we care. Instead of a hole in the ground, what if there were a grove of cloned coast redwoods planted in the block west of Seattle City Hall? It could be an amazing statement about Seattle’s commitment to the future, akin to what the Seattle Space Needle was in 1962. And more than that, it would be a powerful statement to inspire others to take action on behalf of the planet.

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<http://incelebrationoftrees.com>

"Trees . . . WOW!" – Related Websites

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>	<u>URL</u>
1 <u>In Celebration of Trees</u>	Expedition Blog about collecting and archiving the genetics of some of the world's oldest, largest trees – giant sequoias and coast redwoods.	http://incelebrationoftrees.com/
2 <u>Archangel Ancient Tree Archive</u>	Archangel Ancient Tree Archive is David Milarch's non-profit organization that organized and led the expedition.	https://www.ancienttreearchive.org/
3 <u>Moving the Giants</u>	Moving the Giants (11 min.) is an award-winning film which premiered at Environmental film festivals in 2015.	http://www.movingthegiants.com/ or https://vimeo.com/137145457
4 <u>The Redwood's Last Stand</u>	4/18/16 Web article. The giant trees have endured for millennia, but rapidly rising temperatures and years-long drought are threatening their survival.	http://www.takepart.com/feature/2016/04/18/racing-save-ancient-redwood-forests-climate-change?cmpid=tp-ad-outbrain-mob-tent
5 <u>Are California Redwood Trees the Answer to Global Warming?</u>	7/6/16 Web article. California redwoods store more carbon than any other forests in the world, study finds, and they are a particularly potent weapon against global warming.	http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_30094332/weapon-against-global-warming-california-redwoods-store-more
6 <u>Beautiful New Forests are Being Planted with Ancient Trees Now!</u>	5/1/16 Web photo essay on the work being done by Archangel to clone the oldest and largest redwoods and sequoias.	http://beautifulnow.is/bnow/ancient-trees-are-being-cloned-and-replanted-to-create-beautiful-new-forests-that-can-help-save-life-as-we-know-it-on-our-planet#.VvYT5WZIJU9.mailto

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7 <u>Seattle one of 16 U.S. Communities Recognized as Climate Action Champions for Leadership on Climate Change</u>	12/3/14 Adopted in June 2013, Seattle’s Climate Action Plan focuses on city actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience while also supporting vibrant neighborhoods, economic prosperity, and social equity.	https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/03/fact-sheet-16-us-communities-recognized-climate-action-champions-leaders
8 <u>Executive launches partnership to plant one million trees across King County</u>	4/14/16 King County Executive Dow Constantine announced a new partnership to plant one million trees by the end of 2020.	http://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/News/release/2016/April/14-one-million-trees-kickoff.aspx
9 <u>The Eden Project</u>	Recently, the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive (AATA), planted 40 cloned ancient redwood trees on the grounds of the Eden Project, in Cornwall, England. Its damp, foggy conditions mimics their native climate.	https://www.edenproject.com/
10 <u>Forget Beanbag Chairs. Amazon Is Giving Its Workers Treehouses</u>	NY Times 7/10/16 “We wanted it to be iconic, a structure that would be similar to another icon in the city, like the <u>Space Needle</u> , for newcomers to Seattle.”	http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/11/technology/forget-beanbag-chairs-amazon-is-giving-its-workers-treehouses.html?_r=0