



“GROW, SEEDS, GROW!”

At Kimball Elementary School in southeast DC, first-graders planted and harvested their first vegetable crop earlier this year, as part of the Kimball Greening Project, a collaboration between the Earth Sangha and our partner nonprofit, Lands and Waters. In the photo above, the planting chant, “Grow, seeds, grow!” is led by Sangha board member Gail Weigl (in the white sweatshirt), gardener extraordinaire Bill Ackerman, and Jeanette Stewart, President of Lands and Waters. (To make sure the veggies would be safe to eat, we trucked in clean soil for the garden, and spread it over weed mat.)

LAKE BRADDOCK HIGH SCHOOL DIGS IN FOR DIFFICULT RUN

This spring, environmental science students from Lake Braddock High School planted about 250 native trees and shrubs along Difficult Run, a major Fairfax County stream. Difficult Run drains 58 of the county’s 395 square miles; that’s the largest drainage in the county. The April 1 event was part of the county’s stream-buffer restoration program, a collaboration between county agencies, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Earth Sangha. The imposing swarm of planters (top photo) was organized by Lake Braddock science teachers Maureen Harding (above, with green tree shelter) and Mark Khosravi (center, airborne over shovel).

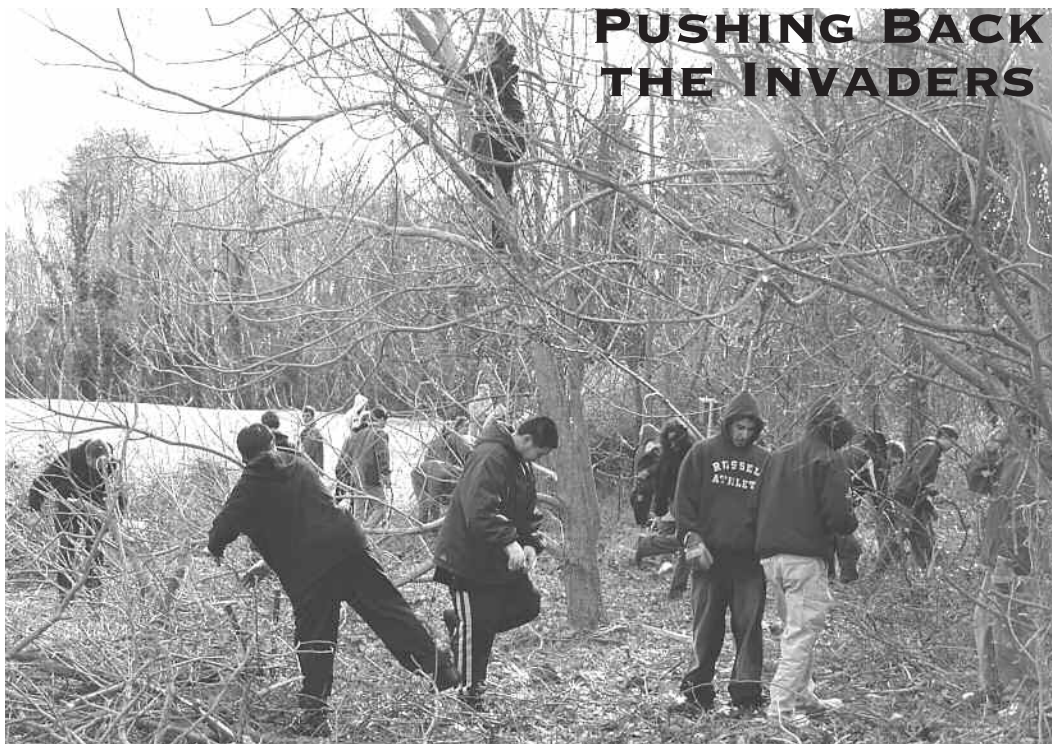
The students created a planting that will help absorb stormwater runoff along 1,300 feet of the run, on the edge of a property north-west of Fairfax City. Fortunately for both the stream and the trees, the property is being acquired by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Lake Braddock students are a force to be reckoned with! See the next page for another photo of their work.



The Earth Sangha was selected as one of Greater Washington’s best small charities by the 2005-06 Catalogue for Philanthropy.
www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/dc

PUSHING BACK THE INVADERS



Back in January, Lake Braddock High School environmental science students took on a nasty patch of invasive alien plants—mostly multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, and oriental bittersweet—at our Native Arboretum Project in McLean's Marie Butler Leven Preserve.

WHERE WE ARE WORKING



This is a 2000 satellite photograph of the Washington, DC, area with political boundaries and major roads superimposed. Developed areas are gray; open space is white. The colored dots indicate Earth Sangha field projects as of July 2006. Only our own field sites are shown. (Stock from our Wild Plant Nursery has been planted on numerous other sites by our partners.)



United Way
CFC # 8390

EARTH SANGHA

BUDDHIST VALUES IN ACTION

The Earth Sangha is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity dedicated to environmental action as an expression of the Buddhist way of life.

Want to volunteer or meditate?

If you live in the Washington, DC, area, you are welcome to join us at our field sites, Wild Plant Nursery, or meditation sessions. Give us a call, at (703) 764-4830, or send e-mail to info@earthsangha.org.

Want to donate or join the Sangha?

You can support our work by becoming a member. Membership starts at \$35 per year. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Our mailing address is:

Earth Sangha
10123 Commonwealth Blvd.
Fairfax, VA 22032-2707.

Comprehensive program information is available on our web site: earthsangha.org.

The *Acorn* is an occasional publication of the Earth Sangha. This is the first *Acorn* to be created with "print on demand" technology, which radically reduces materials and energy consumption. This paper is manufactured with 38% wind power. We hope to make future issues of the *Acorn* even greener.

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MEDITATION SCHEDULE

In Old Town, Alexandria:
At the Mindful Hands Art Gallery,
211 King Street, Third Floor
(one block east of City Hall):
Tuesday & Wednesday Evenings, 7:00-9:00.

In Fairfax:
At 10123 Commonwealth Blvd.
(Near George Mason University):
Thursday Evenings, 7:15-9:00.

More information and maps:
earthsangha.org or call Lisa Bright
at (703) 764-4830.

OUR 2006 SUPPORTERS As of July

Bank of America,
Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund,
Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation,
Fairfax County, Virginia,
National Arbor Day Foundation,
Shared Earth Foundation,
Spring Creek Foundation,
and our many generous individual donors.
We are very grateful to them all.

Photo Credits

Chris Bright: pp. 2, 3 (except upper R), 4 (R col.), 5 (upper R), 6 (bottom). Lisa Bright: pp. 1 (center L & lower L), 3 (upper R), 4 (L col.), 5 (top), 6 (top & center L). Joanna Cornell: p. 6 (center R). Jana Johnston: p. 5 (bottom). Kris Unger: p. 1 (top, center, center R).



KIMBALL LIBRARY PROJECT



WILD PLANT NURSERY



As part of our Kimball Greening Program, we're working with school librarian Barbara Preston (top left photo) to remodel the library in an environmentally sensitive way. We used a paint that is solvent-free and made almost entirely from natural materials (middle photo). The new carpet (bottom photo) is made of recyclable squares; when a square wears out, it can be exchanged for a new one and the old one can be remanufactured into fresh carpet. We're trying to make the greenest choices for furniture as well, consistent with our budget. The library should be functioning by fall.

At our nursery, the propagation program now includes over 100 native species, all grown from local, wild populations. Thanks to our volunteers, things are working better than ever, according to Lisa Bright, our Conservation Director. In the top right photo, that's Bryce Carter getting the plants ready for spring. Philip Latasa runs the show out there now; that's Philip in the second photo, behind an enormous new array of raised beds that he filled with soil last winter. (Yes, on his own.) Roger Chesser and Bogie the Horticulture Dog (third photo) handle the repotting. Our team of Zen Hosers is taking care of the plants in the heat. One of the species now growing in Philip's new beds is bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*, bottom photo). Lisa and Philip rescued this population from near a railroad cut, where it was about to be overwhelmed by a kudzu infestation.



GW COMMUNITY SCHOOL TAKES ON THE WEEDS



RESTORATION AT DANIELS RUN



We're excited to connect with a group of energetic new partners for our work at Wilburdale Park, in the Annandale section of Fairfax County. Beginning last winter, students from the GW Community School, in Springfield, have been tangling with Wilburdale's jungle of invasive alien plants. At top left, the school's Director, Alexa Warden, takes on a bittersweet vine. At bottom left, GW Community students advance into a dense and very prickly patch of multiflora rose.

Students at Daniels Run Elementary School, in the City of Fairfax, are planting our nursery stock on their school grounds (top and middle right). The planting is part of an extensive environmental education and Bayscaping program organized at Daniels Run by Lands and Waters (see front page). Most of our little trees are doing well there, as you can see from the photo at right, which shows a blackgum seedling leafing out this spring.

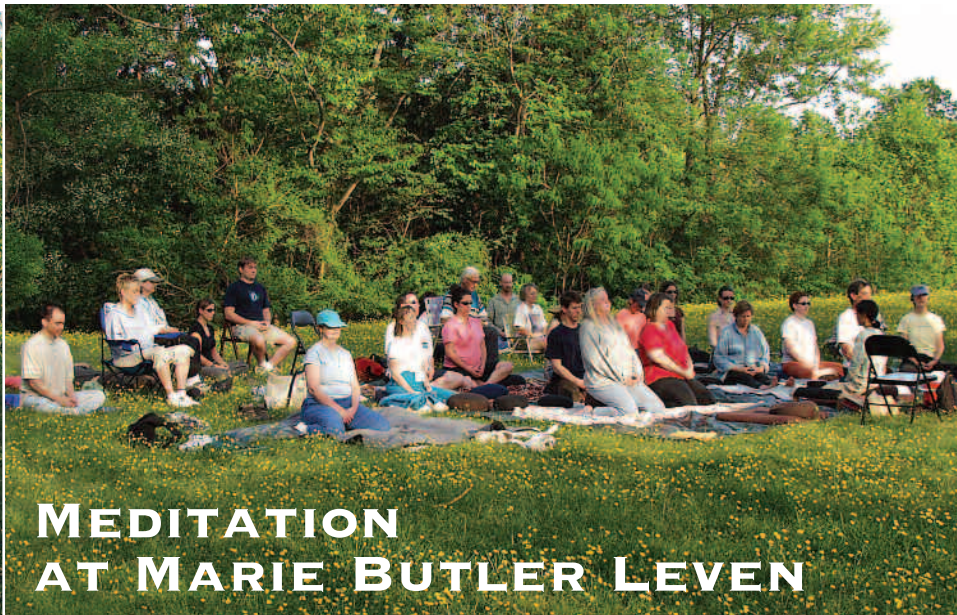
In May, 165 volunteers from AOL participated in our second stream-buffer planting at Lake Fairfax Park, in the western section of Fairfax County (facing page, at top). The goal was partly to extend our first Lake Fairfax planting, done in spring 2005. The efficiency of the AOL volunteers was even more formidable than their turn-out: they worked so quickly that we ran out of planting stock before the event was over—at which point, they extracted a dumpster-load of invasive alien plants from the surrounding woods.

This spring, we hosted two outdoor meditation sessions at the Marie Butler Leven Preserve in McLean (facing page, inset). The sessions were presented as part of the Neighborhood Ecological Stewardship Training (NEST) program, organized by Sangha board member Joanna Cornell. We're hoping to schedule more outdoor sessions this fall.

In April, we celebrated Earth Day with the Vienna Moms Club (opposite, bottom) by organizing a stream-buffer planting at Roundtree Park. As with the Lake Fairfax planting, the Roundtree event was part of the Fairfax County stream-buffer restoration program, and in our opinion, if you're old enough to walk, you have a role to play in these plantings. We're very glad that the Vienna Moms agree!



AOL PLANTS A LAKE FAIRFAX FLOODPLAIN



MEDITATION AT MARIE BUTLER LEVEN



VIENNA MOMS (& DADS) AT ROUNDTREE PARK

SCENES FROM ROUNDTREE



As part of our Earth Day planting last April at Roundtree Park, volunteers from Interfaith Communities for Dialogue planted a variety of native trees and shrubs in a swale near the parking lot (top photo). You can just make out the swale in this photo; note that the planting area is a little lower than the surrounding turf. The swale is designed to channel runoff into a stormsewer, which empties into a nearby tributary of Holmes Run. Unfortunately for the stream, this design works extremely well: during heavy rains, high-volume pulses of runoff hit the stream, scouring out the bed, raising water temperatures, and carrying in pollutants. The planting will slow the runoff, absorb some of it, and filter the water that passes through.

Above left, a Vienna Mom and son set the stake for a tree shelter, which will protect the seedling within from hungry deer. (See the previous page for a Vienna Moms group portrait.)

Above right, a hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) settles in with the help of two students from Annandale High School, which was also helping out at Roundtree.



**THE VAN IS WAITING!
WANT TO VOLUNTEER?
CALL LISA AT 703.764.4830.**