

# “...communities worldwide need to continue the work of the tree men and women...”



tree man, Moore began the Moore Family Foundation to support a variety of environmental programs. Along with the Donner Foundation, the Moore Foundation worked with international conservation institute Global Forest Science to protect the threatened westslope cutthroat trout of British Columbia.

Another of today's exceptional tree men is Michael D. Rubin, who has worked to preserve native habitat in Maryland, South Carolina, and elsewhere. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States, with a watershed encompassing greater than 64,000 square miles, spanning six states and the District of Columbia. The Bay is a treasure trove supporting over 3,600 terrestrial and aquatic species of animals and plants. More than 15 million people call it home. Pollution and lax regulations have harmed all life in the Bay, however, and since 2000 a massive ecological restoration has been underway. As an integral part of the restoration, over 3,000 acres in Montgomery County, Maryland, just twenty-five miles north of Washington, D.C., has been set aside as a preserve. Rubin, a Washington-area landowner, spearheaded the enormous feat, saying, "Development certainly has its place, but this is not the place for development. Resources such as this, once lost, can never be recovered."

### The Tree Man's Legacy

The legacy of Elzeard Bouffier and the real-life counterparts who paved the way towards the modern conservation and preservation movements are alive and

well and living in a new generation of tree men and women. Across the globe, tree planting initiatives have led to the reforestation of millions of acres. In Africa, the Greenbelt Movement founded by Wangari Maathai in 1977 has led to the planting of some forty million trees in Africa. She was awarded the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts.

Last year the United Nations completed its Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign with over 2.5 billion trees around the globe planted. Their new goal is seven billion trees planted by the end of 2009. Here in the U.S., large corporations, schools, cities, small towns, civic groups, and individuals work with organizations like the Nature Conservancy and the Arbor Day Foundation to plant trees from coast to coast. One group, the Student Conservation Association, is planting 285 million trees around the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Valley, Puget Sound, Mississippi River Basin, and Great Lakes.

As the global population nears seven billion, communities worldwide need to continue the work of the tree men and women, planting, protecting, and maintaining the health of trees. From authors to pioneers, industrialists to landholders, conservationists to children, the human spirit and love of trees and nature transcends all boundaries. <sup>21</sup>

—Dr. Reese Halter

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