



It is with enormous pleasure that we announce the release of Ann Linnea's new book, ***Keepers of the Trees, a Guide to Re-Greening North America***. This gorgeous gift was eight years in the making and represents a co-creation between Ann, the folks at Skyhorse Publishing, and thirteen keepers of the trees who agreed to share their stories with the world. Below is a condensed excerpt from the Introduction. Read the entire Introduction, or watch videos related to the book on our [website](#).

## **Circle Tale, April 2010**

### ***Keepers of the Trees* - Introduction**

Up here, at 11,000 feet, the white, dusty, rocky dolomite soil lies loose on the mountain slopes, swirls around my hiking boots and kicks up easily in the nearly constant wind. In the mountains, temperature is determined by altitude. It's over 100 degrees F. in the basin lands far below, but barely 70 degrees F. on the trail this July day. Ballooning cumulus clouds indicate that afternoon thunderstorms are already beginning to build around me, so I stay focused on my exploration knowing I need to be back to my vehicle before lightening begins flashing. Up here, I am a lone moving target for the fire of heaven.

I am dressed in long sleeves and pants, sunglasses and hat. My camera and binoculars bounce on my chest and my daypack carries the Ten Essentials and an extra bottle of water. I am on a pilgrimage to visit the oldest single living organisms on the planet. They are so rare that only a few groupings of them have ever been discovered—all in remote high mountain slopes ...the species I seek is a tree.

*Pinus longaeva* are the most unique, charismatic trees I have ever experienced. Some of the elders around me stand twenty to thirty feet high, others grow horizontally along the ground like shrubs trying to stay out of the wind. Bristlecone pines look more like exotic sculptures than something many people would commonly recognize as trees. Around me are living trees that are over 4,000 years old, and grey sentinels of dead trees up to 10,000 years old. I am walking through a natural time machine. This forest was here at the beginning of the Bronze Age. The large, twisted tree before me was a sapling when people invented the alphabet, when Babylon was the cultural center of the Middle East, when Stonehenge was erected, when the Chinese were learning to spin silk, and when Asian nomads who had ventured across the Bering Sea were gathering nuts and berries in the California valleys below. These trees are supreme survivors—and that's part of why I'm here....

Writing *Keepers of the Trees*, I interviewed a diverse group of people who represent national, racial, gender, age, and vocational diversity. Over the course of six years I traveled thousands of miles from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina and visited urban forests in Los Angeles and Chicago.

In this book you will meet:

- **Andy Lipkis**, founder of TreePeople, has been instrumental in planting over two million trees in his beloved Los Angeles.
- Ninety-eight year old **Merve Wilkinson** supported himself by carefully managing the timber resources on his 136 acres of Canadian forest, and today there is more standing timber than when he began harvesting his land 67 years ago.
- Learning to be a tree pruner literally saved **Laura Robin's** life and brought her back to the foothills of her Montana home.
- Standing in sawdust and sunlight, **Bud Pearson** has let the art of wood turning soften and transform his Viet Nam ravaged soul.
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park forest supervisor **Kris Johnson** is a world expert on the woolly adelgid, an insect ravaging the eastern hemlock forests.
- Arborist **Will Blozan** searches for and measures record-breaking old trees in his spare time.
- **Shannon Ramsay**, founder of Trees Forever, is a genius networker who has helped thousands of volunteers plant trees in Illinois and Iowa.

PeerSpirit Inc., P.O. Box 550 Langley, WA 98260, USA, Phone: 360-331-3580  
email: [cbaldwin@peerspirit.com](mailto:cbaldwin@peerspirit.com), website: <http://www.peerspirit.com/>



- **Corella Payne** balances a stressful, inner city Chicago social services job by volunteering her weekends to tend trees in city parks.
- As Waverly Light and Power's general manager, **Glenn Cannon** became a spokesperson for the triple whammy investment of trees.
- Wilderness researcher for the U.S. Forest Service, Dr. **John Hendee** shares both a scientific and a spiritual perspective on the importance of trees.
- Renaissance man of the trees, Dr. **Robert Van Pelt**, can be found climbing, drawing, photographing, or studying trees in almost any part of the world.
- **Cass Turnbull**, founder of Seattle's Plant Amnesty, is determined to end "the senseless torture and mutilation of urban trees."
- Native carver **Russell Beebe** brings a lifetime of experience into revealing the story hidden in wood and to carve it to the surface.

After much coaxing from friends and colleagues, I have also included my own story so you might better understand how trees have been my interspecies teachers.

*If you have a tale to tell, contact the PeerSpirit office and we'll help you share it.*

*For more information on many applications of circle, visit our web site at [www.peerspirit.com](http://www.peerspirit.com) and subscribe to our monthly Circle Tale newsletter. Your e-mail address will **not** be shared or used by anyone other than PeerSpirit, and you can unsubscribe yourself at any time.*