

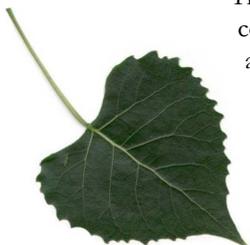
Cottonwood: What's in a Name?

The following passage is reprinted from Cottonwood Foundation's 1994 annual report.

The cottonwood tree serves as the logo for our foundation. It speaks for who we are and what we want to accomplish. Our mission statement makes clear that Cottonwood Foundation seeks to be a positive force in healing the planet by promoting environmental protection, cultural diversity, and the empowerment of people. These themes are exemplified by this tree. If you look past the simple reality of fiber, bark and chlorophyll, you can discover a myriad of meanings.

Cottonwood trees are always found near abundant sources of water, that life-giving element essential to regeneration and growth. As the tree stands for a source of renewal, so our foundation works to provide diverse peoples with the means to protect and restore their environment. Native Americans have found the tree to be a generous provider of food, shelter and fuel, the basic needs. There is a direct tie to another one of our key goals: to empower people to attain rights to basic survival resources, education, safe drinking water, and decent housing and jobs.

Among Native Americans, the shade of the cottonwood is said to possess an intelligence that is healing and can help resolve conflicts. The tree is viewed as a protector and provider, part of its mystique deriving from the fact that it can grow where no other tree can. These are traits our foundation endeavors to emulate by directing funds to groups that promote understanding and cooperation between diverse cultures. Like the tree, the Cottonwood Foundation fills a unique niche: we focus our funding on grass roots groups whose small budgets may not attract larger foundations, but nevertheless for whom our grants can have a significant impact.



The next time you see a cottonwood tree, stop and listen. The whispering leaves that speak to us and provide inspiration for our work may speak to you as well.

Ode to the Cottonwood Foundation

by Michael Pilarski, Friends of the Trees Society

The following is reprinted from Cottonwood Foundation's 1996 annual report.

As the cottonwood tree feeds the ecosystem around it —
So too, the Cottonwood Foundation feeds life.
Big NGOs obtain big grants from big foundations.
The smaller & more grassroots the effort, the harder to find grants.
Grassroots gives the biggest leverage for the grant dollar.

Small NGOs and local initiatives are the hope of the world.

Largely nourished locally — they benefit from outside aid by the likes of Cottonwood Foundation.

May Cottonwood Foundation be one of a growing number of foundations serving & assisting the grassroots.

Strengthen the forces of ecological sanity before the warp and weft of the web of life becomes unraveled.

May your grants feed the roots of the grassroots and bear good fruit.

Thank you for your grant to Friends of the Trees Society.

We take your gift and spread it through the myriad pathways to feed the forces of life.

Your gift aided our endeavors of the past 6 months.

You enabled us to touch and learn from about 70 medicinal plant species.

We have been to the dry hillsides of eastern Washington where the sagebrush, bitterbrush, balsamroot, lomatium and ponderosa pine sink their roots deep.

We have been to the dripping, temperate rainforests where the western red cedar, hemlock, devil's club, wild ginger and streamside arnica live.

We have been to the high mountains in the North Cascades to visit the mountain hemlock, subalpine larch, Sitka valerian, bistort, and huckleberry.

We have been to the farmer's fields (organic) and around the towns, where many "weeds" are medicines.

Our mission in all these places was to ask the plants and ecosystems how we could harvest medicine in a sustainable way.

The plants taught us much.

Friends of the Trees shares this learning with others.

Our hands have touched the plants and they have touched our hearts.

The Cottonwood grant gives us material and spiritual encouragement to keep going.

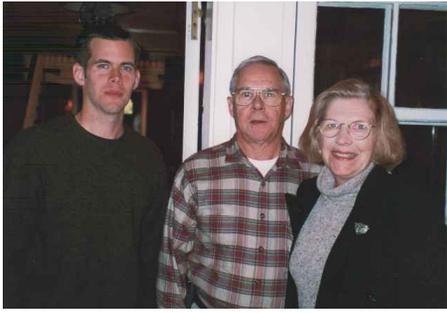
May the forests bless all of the people at the Cottonwood Foundation.

You help Friends of the Trees make a difference.

Long live the cottonwoods lining the riparian areas of North America!

Long live life on Earth!





15 years of Cottonwood Foundation!

Cottonwood Foundation has thrived over the past 15 years due to support from literally hundreds of people who have donated their energy, money, creativity, and goodwill to the foundation. Here are just a few of the many people who have made a difference for Cottonwood over these years!

