



MAMA TREE

Summer Reflections and Fall Offerings

Hello friends of [Mama Tree](#),

The equinox makes it official: Fall is upon us. The first walnut husks are cracking. Crows and ravens are reconvening in flocks ("murders" and "unkindnesses"). Deer bucks are chasing potential mates down from the hills into the orchard. Barn owls have been circling in the evenings, purring to each other, sharing wavering calls between males and females as they inspect a nest site, informing us we have new residents in our owl boxes!

And after Ojai's first August monsoon, with just one week left of our rainy season, we have tallied more than 62 inches of rain on Mama Tree soils this year! The new "water year" begins October 1st. It's an odd feeling, approaching that date with views of green hills and wildflowers still in bloom.

We are expecting a strongly forecasted El Niño year and have been busy adjusting our swales and infiltration basins to maximize rainwater storage in our soils.



Reflections of our fast summer: Guests who braved a visit during a July heat wave cool down under the sprinklers in our plant nursery during our Family Farm Experience. Photo by Darlene Sanchez.

Soil Therapy Sundays

Our Sunday morning volunteer days have been a huge success. Together we're diving at the root of weeds while diving deep into conversation. Join us on Sunday mornings to get your hands in the soil with us for some tidying and weeding around the farm. ***This opportunity is open to folks who have been here before.***



Mark and Betsy gracing us with smiles after helping us clear the roadside, where we aren't able to graze our goats.

Volunteer Day Information & Registration

If you are interested in volunteering with us but haven't yet visited, check out our farm tours and our two ***new agroforestry workshops this October.***

Our ***next farm tour is this Saturday, September 30th.*** We invite you into the orchard for an educational tour geared towards those who want to dive deeper into the regenerative farming approach. Families and children are more than welcome!



Product Supervisor, Madeline, on a farm tour, sharing notes about medicine making with wildflowers from our cover crops. Photo by Darlene Sanchez

[Regenerative Farm Tour Information & Registration](#)

As we jumped from a 6" water year in 2021 to a 62" water year in 2023, our co-farm manager, Jeffrey Reidl, has been asking himself, "How can Mama Tree's agroforestry practices be buffers in the face of these extremes? How can we contribute to keeping our local groundwater dependent ecosystem healthy and functioning?" He takes us on a Mama Tree Deep Dive about how forestry management practices relate to our hydrological cycles.

[Dive Deep with Jeff](#)

In other news, we are thrilled to share about our latest staff addition, Logan Oliver, who joins us from South Africa. Logan is our new Animal Systems Supervisor. He met co-farm managers, Jeffrey and Natalie, at Quail Springs Permaculture in 2019. He has been the missing puzzle piece to our team, and we are so happy he has chosen to be here with us.



Animal Systems Supervisor, Logan Oliver, with his buds Zeus, a Great Pyrenees, and Toughy, the Alpine goat

Please forward this email to anyone you think may be interested in regenerative farm tours, or simply in reading stories from a regenerative farm.

If you're new to our work, sign up for our newsletter [here](#) to stay up to date on our land tending and various offerings.



Chickens enjoy a diverse salad from their mobile coop in our upper pasture.

Header photo by Kate Bowen at Light Beacon Photography



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