

Experienced Volunteers Needed!
Join the Tandana Foundation's special volunteer vacation for
Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteers



Who: *Pam Bennett and Hope Taft* are organizing a week in highland Ecuador especially designed for knowledgeable gardeners. The Tandana Foundation was started in 2006 by Anna Taft to work with indigenous communities in Ecuador and Mali to help them reach their goals.

What: A *MGV Volunteer Vacation*, where we will be working for a plant nursery half of each day and sightseeing the other half. The group size is limited to 16 people, but 8 are needed to make the trip possible.

When: Leave from Columbus, OH on Friday, Feb. 8; Leave Ecuador on Friday, Feb. 15 and arrive in Columbus, OH on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013

Where: In the Andean highlands outside Otavalo, Ecuador. Lodging would be at La Posada del Quinde in Otavalo; a lovely inn with great food, free wi-fi service and friendly staff. Good laundry service too! Ecuador is a beautiful country on the equator in South America that is on the Eastern time zone and uses US dollars. Spanish is the major language. Tandana will supply group leaders who are fluent in Spanish. The weather should be in the 70's during the day and quite cool at night.

Why: To help 23 communities who have banded together to create an operating nursery to raise native trees to plant in their watersheds to protect their water supplies. We will be collecting seeds or seedlings, potting-up seedlings, planting trees, etc. We will also learn about another culture and biome. For more information on the nursery, see www.tandanafoundation.org/muyu.html.

Cost: \$1,000 double occupancy, \$100 additional for single occupancy. Plus: airfare and personal expenses. The trip fee covers all the basic expenses (food, lodging, transportation, activities) from when you land at the Quito airport on Feb. 8th until you return there on Feb 15th. We are working on a group rate airfare.

How to sign up: Send a check made out to the Tandana Foundation for \$1000 double occupancy or \$1100 single occupancy and send with a copy of your passport information

page, a signed Assumption of Risk form and completed Health History form to Pam Bennett by December 20, 2012. Pam's address:

Pam Bennett
4400 Gateway Blvd.
Springfield, Ohio 45502

Be sure to bring: gardening gloves, trowel, rain gear, boots, and be prepared to dress in layers.

Tentative schedule:

Friday: arrive in the evening.

Saturday: orientation and visit the world-famous Otavalo market.

Sunday: help in a minga,[community work party] planting trees around one of the water sources.

Monday: collect seeds or tree seedlings for the nursery

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday teach a brief lesson about plants to local elementary school students and work in the tree nursery

Friday: head back to Quito, visiting a famous garden on the way, and fly out at night.

Afternoons will involve fun, cultural activities, such as a cooking class and a tour to see other local plant species, visiting Cuicocha volcanic lake, touring a rose plantation, visiting a master weaver, labeling the plants at La Posada del Quinde, etc.



The Tandana Foundation
Weaving friendships ~ Empowering communities
www.tandanafoundation.org ~ info@tandanafoundation.org