

## **Greenland Trees report on Greenland field activities 27 Aug - 5 Sept, 2019**



*The Greenland Trees international team working near Narsarsuaq, south Greenland 27 Aug - 5 Sept. 2019*



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## About Greenland Trees

Greenland Trees is run by scientists, some of whom are already in Greenland for glaciological work. The Greenland Trees mission is:

- to maintain a service to drawdown atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> into new forests;
- to partner with Greenlandic society, emphasizing youth engagement and education,
- to restore the landscape in a heavily degraded former military base and other urbanized environments;
- to increase biodiversity;
- to support forest research;
- to have a positive environmental legacy;

and to do so with full transparency, as part of a registered charitable organization.

## About Greenland Trees field campaign 2019

This was the first formal Greenland Trees field campaign after launch January 2019, building on S. Greenland experience going back decades earlier. The goal was as much learning, expanding our network, partnering with permanent residents as planting trees. As expected, we achieved that goal. The possibilities were many and excellent.

## Summary of 2019 field campaign

- In cooperation among twenty people both from Greenland and internationally, Greenland Trees has had a successful 27 Aug - 5 Sep 2019 field campaign in which nearly 5000 1 year old saplings from a variety of species were planted.
- Planting was in several areas (below ~90% of count of trees were planted in Narsarsuaq). The positions of areas were recorded using GPS with details including verbal description captured in this report and in field books.



*screenshot from GreenlandTrees.org of polygons (four red areas) where planting was concentrated in Aug/Sep 2019*

- In addition to the Narsarsuaq planting activities, four boxes (192 poplar) were planted in the urban environment of the Narsaq settlement. Narsaq is located ~1 hour boat transport south of Narsarsuaq.
- We found much enthusiasm for planting in the urban landscape of the Narsaq township. Many trees had already been planted in Narsaq in the past. A key contact is tree enthusiast and planter Niels Sakariassen who has gotten municipality approval of several plantations in Narsaq. Niels showed us his plantation. Niels' enthusiasm and experience obtaining area allotments from the Kujalleq municipality are of strong potential and are to be followed up on.
- After our field campaign, JB followed up with Niels and helped set up the planting of #2 trees in front of Hotel Narsarsuaq.



*With a social media posting instead of a single-use tree, as in many of the past years, we PLANTED TWO TREES to be used by Narsarsuaq community to celebrate each December!*

- BBC produced [a short segment about Greenland Trees](#) that was part of a larger story that aired on the evening news program.
- Two videos ([1](#), [2](#)) from the Qanasiassat plantation were produced by Jason Box from material gathered during this 2019 field campaign.
- In terms of GT increasing wildlife biodiversity, the Qanasiassat plantation is host to at least 50 birds, a population of breeding and resting birds including [redwing](#) (*Turdus iliacus*), [fieldfare](#) (*Turdus pilaris*), [waxwing](#), [redpoll](#) that a guidebook suggests have had their population increased/maintained by the Qanasiassat plantation. GT thus plans to add helping birds to its mission and showcase the Qanasiassat plantation in this way.

### Recommendations for 2020 activities

- there are self-sewn plants along the shore at Qanassiasat and in the river bed north of the runway... An idea was to transplant some of these to other areas.
- We aim to plant repeatedly in the same area over a number of years to spread the risk of mortality and get an opportunity to fill gaps in the plantation.
- 2020 field campaign
  - Invite a videographer, solicit applications in social media
  - We are contemplating fence maintenance at Qanasiassat where sheep and horses threaten young plantings
  - Plantations proposed in recognition of
    - Krista Salas
    - Stephen A. and Margret E. Schoff individual plots

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## Overview of trees received and planted

From mork.is we received the following trees in boxes delivered by IcelandAir cargo

species	count per box	n boxes	total number of plants
Larix sukaczewii (sibirca)	150	15	2250
Pinus contorta (prov.: Light Bennet Lake)	60	13	780
Populus trichocarpa (Brekkan provenance)	48	20	960
Pinus engelmannii (prov: Rio Grande NP, Colorado)	60	13	780
	<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>4770</b>

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## Persons involved in 2019 field campaign

More than 20 people directly participated in GT 2019 field campaign...

*Persons joining the field campaign via Copenhagen air travel*

	<b>name</b>	<b>initi als</b>	<b>Natio nality</b>	<b>description</b>
1	Jason Box	JB	US	GT co-founder
2	Dirk van As	DVA	NL	GT co-founder
3	Radin van As	RVA	NL	5 year old child of DVA and FMN
4	Faezeh M. Nick	FMN	Iran	GT co-founder
5	Peter Friis Møller	PFM	DK	forester
6	Masashi Niwano	MN	Japan	scientists accompanying JB for on-ice work, assisting GT with planting
7	Maxence Menthon	MM	FR	graduate student accompanying JB for on-ice work, assisting GT with planting
8	Maurice van Tiggelen	MVT	NL	graduate student accompanying JB for on-ice work, assisting GT with planting
9	David Shukman		UK	BBC reporter
10	Kate Stephens		UK	BBC producer
11	Robert Magee		UK	BBC cameraman/sound/editor

*Persons involved in GT work, already in Greenland*

	<b>name</b>	<b>initi als</b>	<b>Natio nality</b>	<b>description</b>
1	Kenneth Høegh	KH	GL	Greenland resident of Qaqortoq, Greenland tree planter since 1980s, GT adviser
2	Christiana Dietzen			GEUS post-doc, geochemistry
3	Christian "Ajo"			Tassermiut zodiac captain

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4	Ben Rawlence		UK	author of a book on treeline (he stayed at KH cabin in tent, interviewed KH, stayed a night at Qanaasiassat plantation cabin)
5	Vagn Christiansen		DK	Narsarsuaq resident, airport staff, Diskoline bus driver
6	Ingemar Magnusson	IM	IS	forester, brother of Hotel Narsaq owner Fridrik Magnusson
7	Efa Poulsen			gardner, resident of Upernariarsuk - the Greenlandic agricultural research station
8	Miguel			Greenland Adventure
9	Poul Bjerge			90 year old forester and tree planter, resident of Qaqortoq, former head of the research station in Upernariarsuk
10	Niels Sakariassen		GL	Narsaq resident, tree enthusiast, works for Royal Greenland, house is red and at the far end of town
11	Ole Guldager	OG		Narsarsuaq resident May - Oct, museum manager, historian, author, honey producer,
12	Spanish TV			~8 people, % dlora@zanskar.es, mcalzado@zanskar.es

## Media Involvement

1. BBC produced [a short segment about Greenland Trees](#) that was part of a larger story that aired on the evening news program.
  - 1.1. BBC accompanied our outbound flight from Copenhagen, prior to which numerous emails had developed a plan that included “forestry” interviews that did come to pass with PFM and JB. BBC spent a day in Qaqortoq interviewing KH’s daughter Naja Teresia and two of her friends about climate activism. 30 Aug, BBC met and interviewed JB via Sermeq helicopter (Bell 206L) from Qaqortoq to Tasermiut Camp (TC) where BBC and JB visited PROMICE.dk QAS\_L location where record 2019 melting and micro plastics pollution were discussed. The next site was on the west side of Sermilik glacier where BBC had been 15 years earlier. The group filmed aerials in front of Qaleraliq and Sermilik glaciers with door off the entire flight from TC to the two landing locations.
2. Spanish TV (Zanskar Producciones) interviewed JB about trees and climate change and assisted planting ~15 poplar on 29 August

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## Locations and summary of plantings

*Locations and summary of plantings*

Date	location	count of plants	type	description
<b>Wednesday , August 28, 2019</b>	sandy/rocky slope ~40 degrees	40	Larix <sup>1</sup>	NW of Narsarsuaq water supply, planted amongst existing plants estimated to have been planted 2 years earlier, some longer.
<b>Wednesday , August 28, 2019</b>	Gene E. Box memorial plantation, ~1 Ha area above sand pit ~150 m behind Hotel Narsarsuaq.	1700	Larix	sandy/rocky slope ~45 degrees, lupine had been planted on this slope ~20 years earlier in attempt for slope stabilization. The lupine today show little spreading, occupying ~1/2 of the area.
<b>Thursday, August 29, 2019</b>	G.F. Box memorial plantation, ~1 Ha area behind Hotel Narsarsuaq.	1000	Larix	sandy/rocky slope ~45 degrees
<b>Thursday, August 29, 2019</b>	F.B. Box and G.G. Box memorial plantation	480	Poplar <sup>2</sup>	flat grassy area behind the hotel
<b>Friday, August 30, 2019</b>	KH cabin	60 48 60	Engelmannii Poplar Larix	shrubby areas around KHS cabin in the valley
<b>Saturday, August 31, 2019</b>	Narsarsuaq	120 128 420	Contorta Poplar Engelmannii	planting by DVA, RVA, FMN and PFM (+ Allan and Chris

<sup>1</sup> Larix sukaczewii

<sup>2</sup> Populus trichocarpa

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		225	Larix	from GEUS) planting at north end of runway
<b>Sunday, September 1, 2019</b>	Narsaq	98	Poplar	JB, MN, MM, MVT planted in the valley bottom near middle of town beside Rosalie building across an area of ~2/3 Ha.
<b>Monday, September 2, 2019</b>	Narsaq	6	Poplar	school, FMN, PFM
<b>Monday, September 2, 2019</b>	Narsaq	30	Poplar	JB, PFM, FN, IM, surrounding houses
<b>Monday, September 2, 2019</b>	Narsaq	30	Poplar	JB, FN, IM, PFM, downslope of hostel
<b>Monday, September 2, 2019</b>	Narsarsuaq	48 60	Poplar Engelmannii	DVA, RVA and FMN planting beyond north end of runway
<b>Tuesday, September 3, 2019</b>	Narsarsuaq	48 150	Poplar Larix	planting by DVA, RVA and FMN planting beyond north end of runway

### Bird species info

Species benefiting of and resting or/and breeding in the plantations

- *Turdus iliacus*, redwing<sup>3</sup> - in Greenland only in plantations
- *Turdus pilaris*, fieldfare - in Greenland only in plantations
- *Bombycilla garrulus*, waxwing - in Greenland only in plantations
- *Carduelis flammea*, redpoll - in Greenland both in natural shrubs and in plantations

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<sup>3</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redwing>

### 2018 planting status retrospective

Most trees we planted Aug 2018 survived. Testimony from Kenneth Høegh was enthusiastic that the weather conditions were so good since 2018 planting that "100%" of the saplings planted near his cabin were present summer 2019.



*Some Poplar individuals that already have red 2019 leaves that are about to drop. Had the trees not survived, there would not be a 2019 set of leaves.*

## Day-by-day Occurrences

### Tuesday, August 27, 2019

- arrival to Narsarsuaq from Copenhagen
- picked up car rental (1 Toyota hilux)
- gathered existing planting tools from Blue Ice depot
- checked into overnight locations: cabin (JB, DVA, DVA, FMN, PFM), hostel (MM), hotel (MN)
- visited the 61 boxes of plants (photo next page) and new tools stored in the container behind Vagn Christiansen's house. The boxes had arrived 3 days earlier<sup>4</sup>. Vaughn had kindly stored them for us.

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<sup>4</sup> Saturday 24 August, 2019 arrival of ~74 boxes from mork.is to Narsarsuaq... handling of boxes by Narsarsuaq. resident Vagn Christiansen c/o Blue Ice, plants stored in the container behind Vagn's house.



61 boxes containing 4770 saplings among four taxa (species)

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- We gave #60 saplings to Vagn to plant in his garden (#20 each of poplar, larix, engelmannii). Another #104 saplings were planted in Vagn's garden for planting next year (2020).



*60 trees were given to Vagn Christensen for his garden and another 104 trees were planted there to be transplanted in 2020*

### **Wednesday, August 28, 2019**

- GT19 planting location 1
  - NW of Narsarsuaq water supply, planting of 2/3 of a box of Larix (64 plants), 2/3 of a box (~64 plants) planted in under 1 h



*planting beside the reservoir in Narsarsuaq*

- sharing of truck rental with GEUS technicians preparing for on-ice weather station maintenance the next day.
- GT19 planting location <sup>2<sup>5</sup></sup>
  - Gene E. Box memorial plantation: sandy/rocky slope ~40 degrees, ~0.4 Ha. The area is above a sand pit and is bounded by a gravel road connecting the township and signal hill. The area is ~150 m SE of Hotel Narsarsuaq. The area has a NW exposure. 1575 individual Siberian Larch (*Larix Sibirca*) saplings obtained from mörk.is were planted. The planting was the work of 5 people (Jason E. Box, Dirk Van As, Faezeh M. Nick, Masashi Niwano and Maxence Menthon) working for 8 hours, not including a 30 minute lunch. GPS coordinates of the perimeter were taken by JB. These data have been converted into Google Earth place markers and polygons to be posted into a Google Map at [GreenlandTrees.org](http://GreenlandTrees.org). The weather was fair with no active mosquitoes. At the time of planting, no trees were no trees growing here. Lupine flowering plants had been planted on this slope ~20 years earlier in an attempt to stabilize the slope. The lupine on this date show little sign of spreading and currently

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<sup>5</sup> An issue is a mis-registration of the Google Earth projection/imagery that results either/and/or from Google else/and/or JB's handheld GPS data. In the polygons and place markers, we have assumed a handheld GPS data error resulting from incomplete sky view. We can aim to re-survey the positions in the future using dual frequency GPS data sampling and differential correction in post-processing.

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occupy less than half of the area. A hope is that lupine increased soil nitrogen content.



*Gene E. Box memorial plantation 29 Aug, 2019*



*Jason Box with Gene E. Box memorial plantation in background*

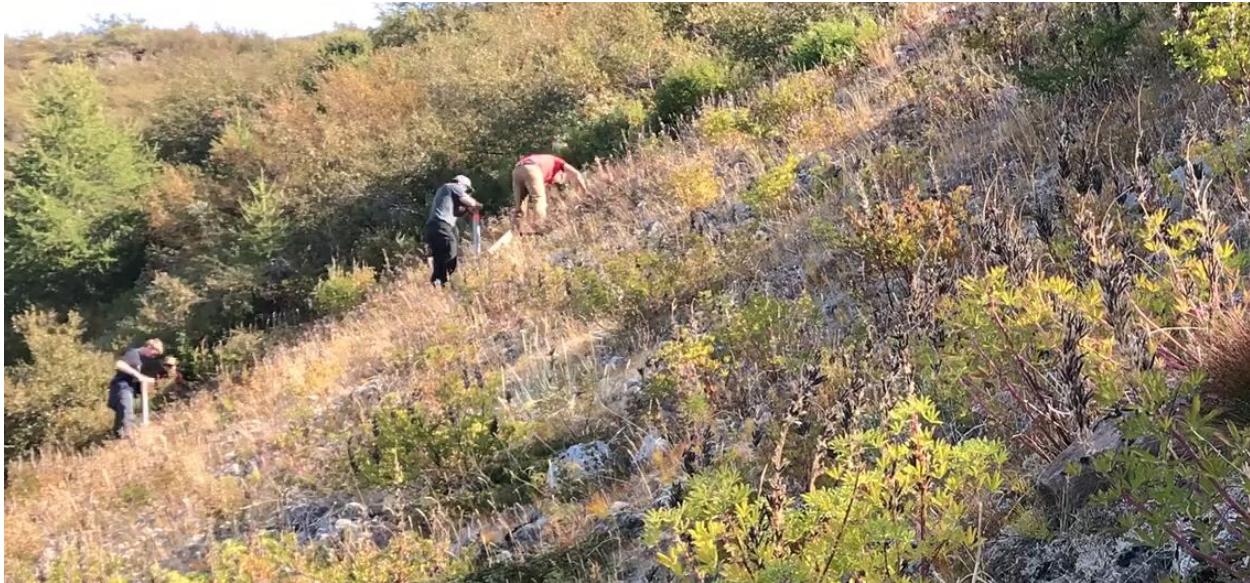
- At 9 am, BBC was transported to the site from the hotel for filming of the “forestry” work. The filming resulted in a [a short segment about Greenland Trees](#)
- GT19 planting location 4
  - behind KH cabin



*planting around KH's cabin*

**Thursday, August 29, 2019**

- GT19 planting location 4
  - G.F. Box memorial plantation, sandy/rocky slope ~35 degrees, ~0.3 Ha. ~100 m behind Hotel Narsarsuaq. The area has a NNW exposure. At the time of planting, the slope was ~50% vegetated. The area is ~80 m SE of Hotel Narsarsuaq. #1000 individual Siberian Larch (*Larix Sibirca*) obtained from mork.is were planted. The planting was the work of 6 people (Jason E. Box, Dirk Van As, Faezeh M. Nick, Masashi Niwano, Maxence Menthon and Christiana Dietzen) working for 5 hours. GPS coordinates taken by JB including a perimeter track. These data have been converted into Google Earth place markers and polygons to be posted at Weather was fair with no mosquitoes.



*Four of the team planting in the Gaylord F. Box memorial plantation*

- GPS coordinates and perimeter track taken by JB, coordinates numbered [003, 004, 005, 006, 007]
- GT19 planting location 4
  - F.B. Box and G.G. Box plantation: flat grassy area behind the hotel, 0.3 Ha, area is bounded on NW side by a roadway and on the opposite side by a drainage ditch. ~10 boxes of (#480) poplar saplings were planted. The planting was the work of 10 people (Jason E. Box, Dirk Van As, Faezeh M. Nick, Masashi Niwano, Maxence Menthon, Ben Rawlence the author, Captain Christian "Ajo" and Miguel from Adventure Greenland) working for 3 hours. GPS coordinates of the perimeter were taken by JB. These data have been converted into Google Earth place markers and polygons to be posted at <https://greenlandtrees.org/> main page
  - The weather was fair; mosquitoes were not present.
- JB, DVA, RVA, FMN, MN stayed in hotel Narsarsuaq

### **Friday, August 30, 2019**

- planting by DVA, RVA, FMN and PFM planting at N end of runway...1 box pinus sylvestris (#60 plants), 3 boxes engelmannii + #40 engelmannii (#200 plants), 18 poplar and 0.5 box of larix (#75 plants) = #335 plants total
- planting by KH and PFM in shrubby areas around KH's cabin in the valley; #60 Engelmannii, #48 Populus, #60 Larix
- **parallel GT activity in glaciological science:** 5.45 am pickup from hotel of JB, MN, MM, MVT for Tasermiut zodiac to Qaleraliit, activities described in BBC media coverage and in addition, the on-ice work was the 4 aforementioned visiting 5 ablation stakes, re-installing 3 of them, camping obe night then walking the next day down to ice edge for Tasermiut zodiac pickup and onward to Narsaq Saturday.

**Saturday, August 31, 2019**

- planting by DVA, RVA, FMN and PFM (+ Allan and Chris from GEUS) planting at N end of runway [2 boxes of pinus, 3 boxes of poplar -18, 7 boxes of Engelmani and 1.5 box of Larix]



*DVA planting north of runway in Narsarsuaq*

- **parallel GT activity:** Tasermiut zodiac pickup from Qaleraliit ice edge and onward to Narsaq via Tasermiut camp.
- group reunited for dinner at hotel and afterward plenty of reveling at Narsaq Pub
- overnight at Hotel Narsaq (got hostel price, thanks Ingemar!)

**Sunday, September 1, 2019**

- IM, JB, FMN planted ~40 poplar in clusters downslope of the hostel in Narsaq



*planting poplar in downslope of the hostel (background) in Narsaq*

- IM had driven JB, DVA, RVA, FMN, MN, MM, MVT around town in red electric minivan, planting trees at two residences, one site had #4 poplar planted around residence of Sofia (mother of Kattie of Hotel Narsaq) (see annotated FMN map below), showing us trees around town and planting activity, planted two poplar beside building 863, JB took GPS [position 031], eventually dropping the group off at tree planting enthusiast Niels Sakariassen who had earlier gotten municipality approval of several plantations in Narsaq.



*planting at Kattie's mother (right) place in Narsaq, Ingemar (background), Jason (left), Faezeh (middle)*

- Niels showed us his plantation. We planted the remainder of our box [21 plants] and four potted plants Niels had on site that were root bound and in need of planting.



*Niels Sakariassen (left) and Jason (right); Niels showing the plaque he'd produced (in three languages) that was displayed at his planting locations in Narsaq*

- Niels' enthusiasm and experience obtaining area allotments from the Kujalleq municipality are of strong potential and are to be followed up on. JB obtained GPS positions of the corner points of Niels' plantation [waypoints 032, 033, 034, 03]
- #4 ~3 year old root bound potted plants were re-planted from Niels Sakariassen's garden.

**Paarisigut, Tapersersortigut,  
Nuannarisigut, Kusagisigut. Taava  
alligutta ungallit peerneqasapput.**

Inuss. Orpeeqqat

**Pas på os, støt os, vær glad for os,  
betragt vores skønhed. Så vil vores  
hegn blive fjernet, når vi bliver store.**

Venligst De Små Træer

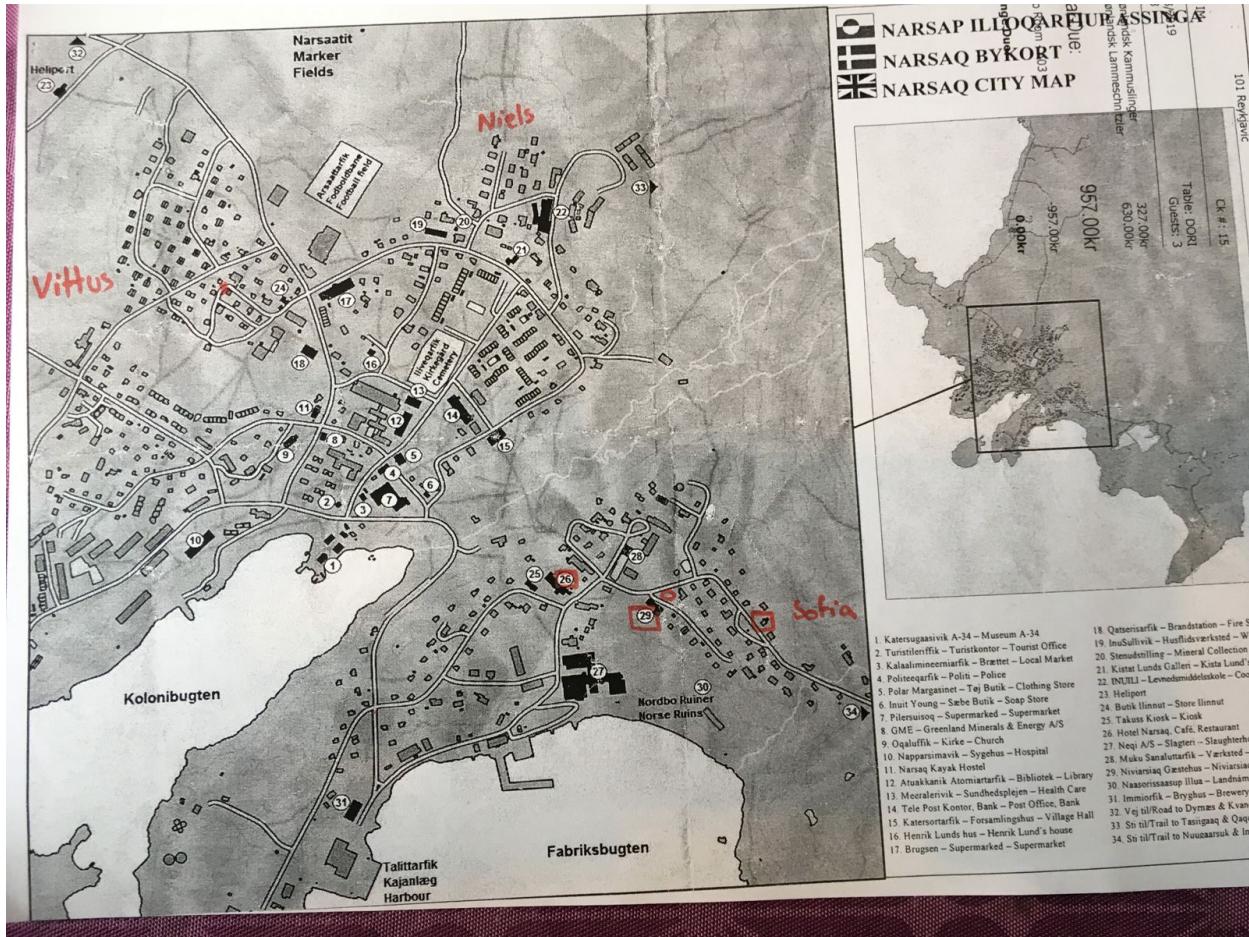
**Take good care of us, support us,  
be happy for us, look at our beauty.  
Then the fence will be removed  
when we grow.**

Greetings The Small Trees



*placard produced by Niels Sakariassen*

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- Niels drove the group around Narsaq in his pickup truck, pointing to area allotments and various plantings around town. Niels returned the group to the hotel.
- JB, MN, MM, MVT took the last two boxes of poplar (2 x 48 plants) to plant in the valley bottom near the middle of town beside Rosalie building, ~2/3 Ha. JB obtained corner positions [036, 037, 038, 039] and returned to hotel Narsaq to secure Diskoline tickets for JB, MN, MM, MVT.

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*MN, MM, MVT planting two boxes of Poplar in the lowland in Narsaq*

- DVA, IM and RVA planted 20 Poplar behind the hotel. They supported half of them by locating big rocks and mulch around the plantings to test different protection methods.



*planting behind hotel Narsaq*

- IM Qajaq brewery tour with brewing details presented by Isaac (Edward) Milosavich

#### **Monday, September 2, 2019**

- ~8.30a PFM and FMN visited the school in Narsaq. The school managers, Bettina Abelsen Hansen and Peter Fredriksen, were very interested in future collaboration. We have the aim for an educational program for the school kids in 2020.

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*The Narsaq school kids planted 6 poplar behind the school.*

- An additional 4 poplar trees were given to Peter (of the Narsaq school) to plant them around his house.

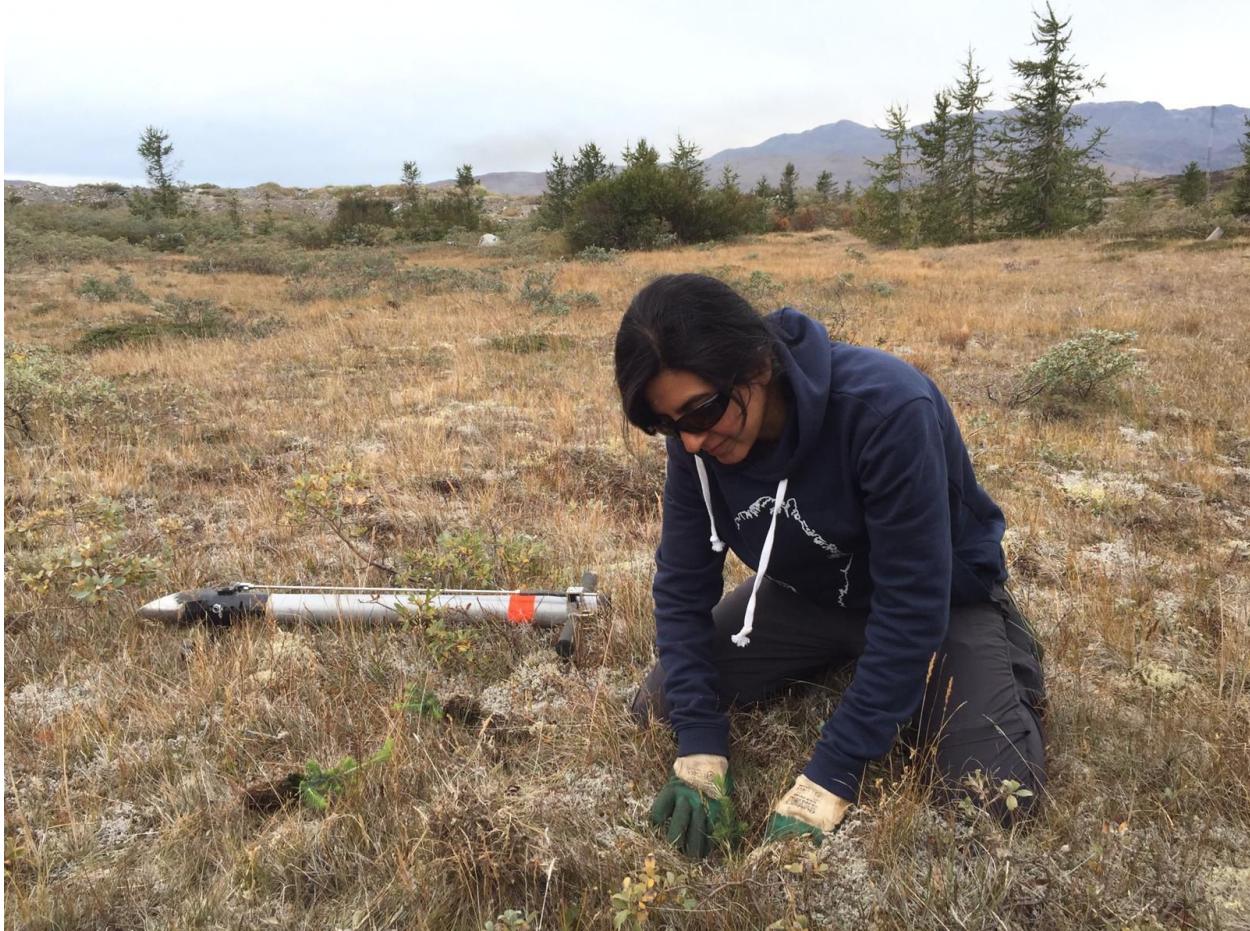


*Peter (of the Narsaq school)*

- ~10.30a departure of DVA RVA and FMN to Narsarsuaq by Diskoline targa boat
- ~10.30a departure of PFM to Qaqortoq by Diskoline targa boat
  - meeting between PFM and Poul Bjerge, 90 year old forester and tree planter, resident of Qaqortoq former head of the research station in Upernaviarsuk and main force of the plantation in Qanaasiassat.
- 12.15p departure of JB, MN, MM, MVT to Narsarsuaq by Diskoline small targa boat. En route, the group ate dried fish dipped in seal fat. JB, MN, MM disembarked boat at Itileq and walked to Igaliq to visit solar farm, camp and have dinner. MVT continued to Narsarsuaq.

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- planting by DVA, RVA and FMN planting beyond north end of runway [1 box of poplar and 1 box of Engelmanni]



**Tuesday, September 3, 2019**

- planting by DVA, RVA and FMN planting at N end of runway [1 box of Larix and 1 box of poplar]
- storage of planting tools at KH cabin

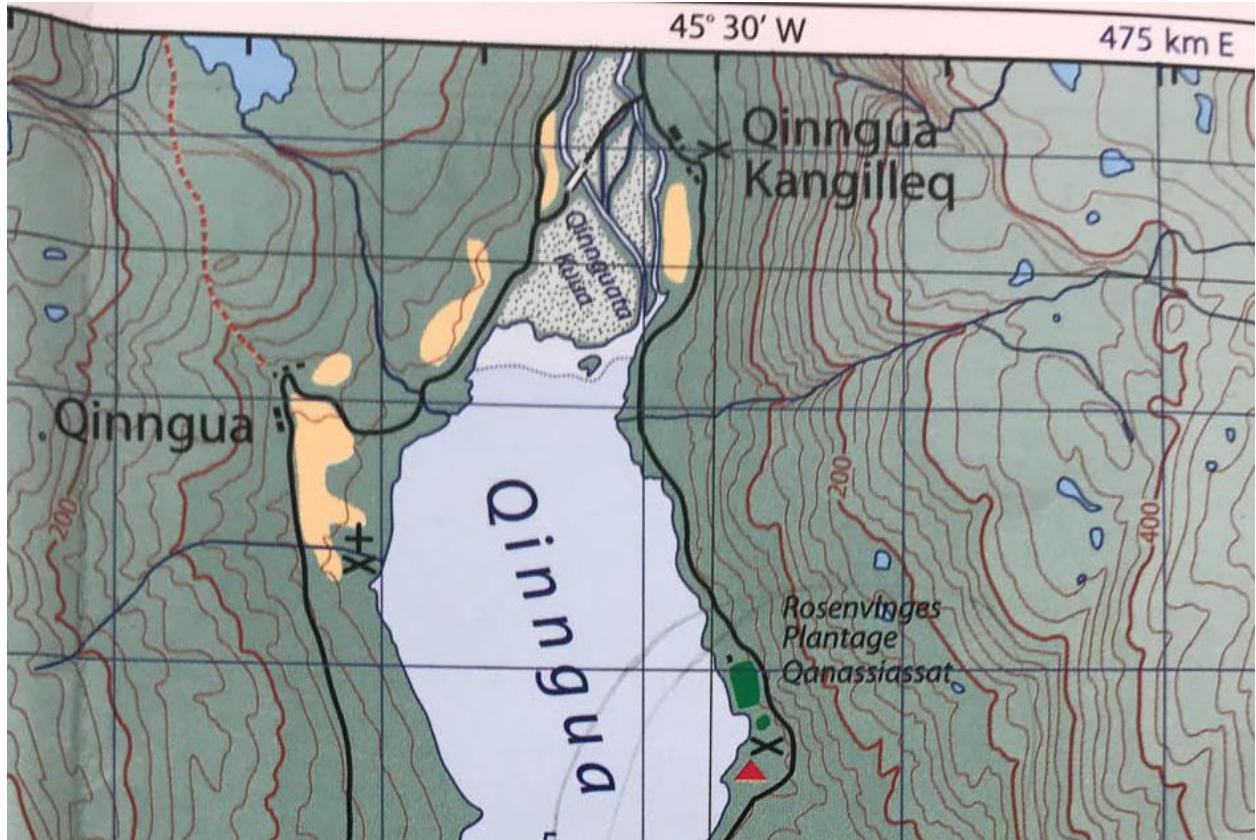


*storage of planting tools at KH cabin*

- BBC and MVT departure from Narsarsuaq to Copenhagen on Air Greenland operated by Jet Time.
- 13.10 JB, MN, MM (3 PAX) Tasermiut zodiac from Itileq to Narsarsuaq
- 16h JB, DVA, RVA, FMN, PFM, MN, MM (7 PAX) Tasermiut zodiac from Narsarsuaq to Qassiarsuk
- a glacier outburst flood made Eric's fjord brown with silty water
- meet with Ramon Laramendi, stay at his house
- rainy weather overnight

#### **Wednesday, September 4, 2019**

- 12h JB, DVA, RVA, FMN, PFM, MN, MM (7 PAX) Tasermiut zodiac from Qassiarsuk to Qanasiassat



*Qanasiassat in Qinngua, top of Eriksfjord*

- videography of Qanasiassat plantation
- visit to Rosenvinge plantation (Scott's pine trees, one surviving, since 1892 planting)



*Qanasiassat (farground) and Rosenvinge (foreground) plantations.*

- stay overnight at Qanasiassat cabin belonging to the Bjerge family



*Qanasiassat cabin and plantation*

- recording of Qanasiassat plantation conditions that later enabled producing two videos ([1](#), [2](#))
- list of ideas for maintenance of Qanasiassat cabin
  1. fence repair to prevent sheep and horse from damage inside plantation or at least around the newest parts of the plantation
  2. solar power upgrade
    1. new batteries, additional solar panels, multimeter and tools, new charge controller, inverter
    2. building of a minor shed for firewood, materials etc.
    3. rain gauge, a Hobo shield is present
    4. bench for forest
    5. water jugs, tank
    6. soil carbon profiler, measurement kit
    7. window cleaning kit
    8. paint exterior
  10. repair deck in front (one board is rotten)
  11. guest book
- evening watching of aurora borealis

### **Thursday, September 5, 2019**

- 12 pm meeting with museum manager and honey producer Ole Guldager
  - Ole urges GT and associates to produce correct documentation of tree planting activities v time to obtain official approval of area allotments.
    - “the time is now to get it right”
    - a union
    - it’s time to make the arboretum official as a sanctuary
    - we need to establish rules and regulations for the arboretum
      - Ole argues that the exchange of tree clippings with Brugsen should not be a commercial activity
  - Ole suggests Birgitte Jakobsen, former Narsarsuaq resident to be an official manager of the permanence work, at least initially

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- the existing database should be shared with Ole
- Ole has a geo-database for the arboretum
- Ole proposes an arboretum front desk at the museum



*12 pm meeting with museum manager Narsarsuaq museum director Ole Guldager*

JB, DVA, RVA, FMN, MN, MM, PFM depart from Narsarsuaq to Copenhagen on Air Greenland.