



**ReLEAF
WASHINGTON**

Fall 2026

Fall Work Day

Saturday 10am
at Havens Gardens
shelter next to bridge.

Come out and help us
prune, mulch and fertilize
our trees!

**24
OCT**

We've planted more
than **250 trees**,
and are planning to
add dozens more
next year !

New Board Member Russ Chesson

Russ was raised in Little Washington. He has a degree in Anthropology and Outdoor Education from ECU. He worked with youth on Ocracoke Island in an afterschool and outreach program and then went on to spend a decade in Flagstaff, Arizona. While there, he guided groups through expeditions in the Grand Canyon and worked with underserved youth in Flagstaff as part of a program with the Arizona Children's Association.



Russ moved back to Little Washington and wanted to share his love of the natural area through environmental education at the NC Estuarium and that blossomed into teaching eighth grade science at Chocowinity Middle School.

"I've always had a heart for the outdoors," he says, "and believe that rewilding our urban space is an imperative for future generations to connect to the world around them. It also serves as a physical step to not only beautify our environment but provide a functional change to better all aspects of it."

We're so excited to have Russ join ReLeaf and bring new ideas for rewilding and environmental education!

Fall Fundraiser

ReLeaf held its annual fundraiser at Pitt Street Brewery on Friday, October 2. We raised \$165 and received another \$80 in cash donations.

Thanks to everyone who came out to join us raise a glass and support our work to maintain and protect our valuable trees and plant new ones!



Vine Removal

ReLeaf recently helped to maintain a large tree near Jack's Creek by having vines removed. Thanks to Gator's Stump Grinding & Lawn Service for helping us with this job.

Dense vine leaves like these trap moisture against the bark, which can accelerate fungal decay, invite wood-boring pests and increase other risks for disease. Tight wrapping vines can girdle or strangle a tree. Vine roots also compete with the tree for soil nutrients and water. This tree now has a much better chance for a long, healthy life.



Membership Drive

ReLeaf has recently mailed out membership renewal postcards.



Use the QR code on the card or go to our website:

<https://releafwashington.com/donate-members>

and click the **DONATE** button.

Thanks for all of your support!!

In Memorium

On Friday, October 9, a group of Washington Montessori students planted three evergreen trees on the school's campus as a memorial to their friends whose lives were cut short. They planted a Southern Magnolia for Anabelle Laughlin, a Long Leaf Pine for Jack O'Neal and an Eastern Red Cedar for Solomon Boltes.

ReLeaf has frequently planted trees in Little Washington to honor loved ones. Please reach out to us if you have a request.



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Thanks so much
for your support!

We couldn't do this without
you and every membership
and volunteer helps!