

# RELEAF WASHINGTON

## *PLANT, PROMOTE, PROTECT*

### Is It In You?



Is ReLeaf Washington's Board of Directors in your future?

Like all non-profit organizations, ReLeaf likes (and needs) good people to steer it. Unlike many other organizations, ReLeaf's Board is a *working* board as opposed to an *advisory* board. Because ReLeaf has no paid employees, its governing board and its volunteers do the work to fulfill its mission. And there is plenty of work to do—rewarding, fulfilling work.

Since its inception in 2018, ReLeaf has planted 96 trees. That sounds simple until one considers locating sites, the choices of species to plant, growing partnerships necessary to fund projects, and then taking care of our trees once they're in the ground. The rewards are more than worth it as we watch our trees survive and grow.

Planting trees is only part of what ReLeaf's Board does. It also *promotes* the planting of trees by others and *protects* the trees we already have, especially Washington's heritage trees. Doing these things requires board members who are connected to the community and to the community's elected and appointed leaders.

So...is it in you? Are you interested in helping to make Washington greener? If so, let us know. There may be a spot for you. A **GREEN** spot.

## Welcome

After taking a summer hiatus we are back at it planning for the upcoming planting season. We have had some fantastic outreach opportunities with the community and can't wait to share our progress! Please be on the lookout for opportunities to volunteer with watering and caring for our trees later in the season.

Thank you as always for your generous support and encouragement.

## Hello to Ben!

Please join us in welcoming Ben Hudson to our board!

Ben graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1974 with a BS degree in Forest Management. He began his career in a variety of horticultural fields that included a landscape nursery in Colorado and commercial Apple orchards in Massachusetts. For 9 years he was a forest manager for a large woodland management company in NH. In 1996 he created his own forestry consulting business as Hudson Forestry. As a licensed forester, he worked for



both private landowners and municipalities managing their lands and conservation areas. In 2018, he and his wife, Patty, decided they wanted a new adventure for retirement and found their way to Washington.

We are beyond thrilled to have such an experienced forester join the ranks of those of us willing to roll up our sleeves and serve.

## Board Members

Heather Moore Thienpont, President

Attila Nemezc, Vice President

Dick Leach, Treasurer

Susan Sizemore-Watson, Secretary

Meredith Loughlin

Mack Simpson

Ben Hudson

## ReLeaf partners with Washington Housing Authority

Over the next few years, ReLeaf will take on our largest project to date. In partnership with the Washington Housing Authority (WHA), we plan to add at least 300 trees to our urban canopy. The project will benefit all six WHA neighborhoods, impacting residents across Washington, as one out of ten Washington residents lives in a WHA neighborhood.

We are excited about our partnership with WHA executive director Vanessa Dunn because she is bold in her vision to sustain and improve WHA neighborhoods. Built across decades, some of the neighborhoods were built with an understanding of the benefits of urban trees, so they have beautiful canopies that are now 50 years old, while some are short on trees.

We are approaching this project differently than previous plantings. Our goal is not just to plant trees, but to create a forest. We plan to incorporate canopy trees such as white and live oaks, as well as understory trees like red cedar and redbud, and nut trees like pecans.

By mimicking a forest, we will be able to plant smaller trees in areas where canopy trees would be inappropriate because of proximity to power lines and sidewalks. Our forest will have more biological diversity than a single-species planting, attracting a broader range of birds, helping to shade each other, and creating visual diversity, with redbuds flowering in the early spring and cedars staying evergreen.

By planning the next generation of canopy trees, we will hopefully maintain a permanent canopy, instead of returning the neighborhood to an early successional forest—with only small trees and excessive sunshine and heat. We are using existing openings to fill in trees, even if the neighborhood already has a decent canopy.

The benefits to the residents are many, with numerous studies showing improvements in mental and physical health and neighborhood pride, while decreasing power bills. Many of our plantings will also focus on shading playgrounds, making them more inviting for outdoor play, even as summer temperatures soar. In neighborhoods that cater to older residents, trees will bring nature to residents who have limited mobility and cannot get to parks or the waterfront. Pecan trees will bring residents outside in the fall to gather pecans for holiday meals.

Like a real forest, this is not a project that will be complete next year. We want to work with stakeholders to create a forest that everyone can appreciate, and to improve the project as we learn along the way. The end result will be a **greener**, more vibrant Washington for all of our residents.

-By Attila Nemezc, Vice President of ReLeaf Washington

**Forest: \$1000+**

Anonymous  
 Robin Arnold  
 Rod and Gina Cantrell  
 Bob and Jeanie MacKenzie  
 Attila Nemezc  
 Lewis and Sarah Sloan

**Sequoia: \$500 to \$999**

Anonymous  
 Scott Campbell  
 Dr. Elizabeth & Russel Cook  
 Dick and Becky Leach  
 Sabin Leach  
 Mary Day Mordecai and Ned Hulbert  
 Bruce and Anne Mears  
 Gray and Nancy Murray  
 Elizabeth Sloan  
 Toddy M. Warren  
 Washington Garden Club

**Live Oak: \$100 to \$499**

Dianna Aideuis  
 Ulrich and Mary Alsentzer  
 Kennedy Arnold  
 Kerrigan Arnold  
 Korbyn Arnold  
 Tom and Bet Archie  
 Bill and Pat Axness  
 Louise and Jeffery Barker  
 Jeff and Kat Barwick  
 Bay Harbour Neighbors  
 Shannon Blackstone  
 Grace Bonner  
 Betsy Boxer  
 Lawrence Cantrell  
 Allan Carpenter  
 Charlotte Carpenter  
 Clay Carter  
 David and Vivian Carter  
 Lou and Mary Carter  
 Connie Cipriano  
 Beth and Chris Collier  
 David Connard  
 Athy M. Cooper  
 John and Ann Crew

Polk and Cathy Culpepper  
 Dr. Steven Cohen  
 Susan S. Dawson  
 Brandia Dixon  
 Dawn Dolson  
 Rusty and Patsy Duke  
 Gary Duncan  
 Delyle and Louise Evans  
 Peter and Isabel Farrell  
 Bill Ferrell  
 Kelly Rawls Fountain  
 Ginger Gardiner  
 Richard Gerrard, Jr.  
 Swanson and Lind Graves  
 Marcia Griffin  
 Joe and Betsy Hester (Hester & Tucker Law)  
 Hon. Mac and Lou Hodges  
 David & Anna Holland  
 Pat and Fred Holscher  
 David and Julie Howdy  
 Dr. Rick and Cheri Howdy  
 Lydie and Archie Jennings  
 Parker and Elizabeth Johnson  
 Betsy Kane  
 George and Jeannie Kountouris  
 Katie and Ted Lake  
 Lynda E. Lane  
 Dr. Ernie and Sara Larkin  
 Rodney and Barbara Lawrence  
 Becky Leach  
 Dick Leach  
 Jim and Katirle Leach  
 Frank and Ginger Longino  
 Meredith and Neil Loughlin  
 Amy Lupton and Brenda Rodgers  
 Jule and Laurel MacKenzie  
 Mary Todd Mackenzie  
 Ed and Shirley Mann  
 Margaret McEwan  
 Joe McKoy and Margaret Ryan  
 Bill and Lois McLaughlin  
 Nan and Chris McLendon  
 Jayne Meisell

Alan L. Mobley and Jeff Phipps  
 Cathy Moore  
 Muriel Moore  
 Emory Morgan  
 Rich and Beth Morin  
 Patrick and Carol Nash  
 Edward Newburn and  
 Dominique Peridand  
 Sue Nicholson  
 Open Door Community Center  
 Chris and Ashley Padgett  
 Catherine and Neal Partrick  
 Frank and Patti Phelps  
 Charles Phillips  
 Beth and Marion Pippin  
 Joann Purdie  
 Kathleen and Ted Redman  
 Bob Rich  
 William Richardson  
 Riley and Olivia Roberson  
 Courtney and Rob Rousseau  
 Jeff and Cathy Rumley  
 Fred and Sallie Scales  
 Penny and Wayland Sermons  
 Mack and Susan Simpson  
 Mike Sloan  
 Armine and Jim Smith  
 Marian D. Smith  
 Larry and Sue Smithwick  
 Nannette Smyre  
 Sole Train Runners  
 Dr. Frank and Alice Stallings  
 Shirley and Ed Stone  
 Lentz and Tricia Stowe  
 Dr. Josh and Carol Tayloe  
 Heather and John Thienpont  
 Damon and Christy Walcott  
 Dewey and Barbara Walker  
 Steve and Terry Walker  
 Mary Todd Warren  
 Washington Park, Town of  
 David and Betty Wheeler  
 Gary and Betty Wilson  
 Wine Words and Gourmet  
 (Mary Mehlich)  
 Dr. Richard and Judy Young

**Red Oak: \$50 to \$99**

Buck Buckman  
 David Carraway and Lisa  
 Hodges  
 Jean and Barr Coleman  
 Daughters of the American  
 Revolution  
 Stan and Lynn Deatherage  
 Virginia Finnerty  
 Scott Fortenberry  
 Mary Anne Foy  
 Tom and Elaine Grubb  
 David and Mary Hocevar  
 Lisa Hodges  
 David and Anna Holland  
 Greg and Lele Judy  
 John and Maureen LaVake  
 Nancy Leach and Essie O'Neal  
 Billie-Jean Mallison  
 Bill and Jane McCotter  
 Katherine N. Mitchell  
 Dr. Mike and Tish Moore  
 Fritz and Ginger Morrison  
 John B. Myers  
 Jessie and Bob Paciocco  
 Pat and Bob Piacente  
 Ann and Thomas Rafferty  
 Dominic Reisig  
 John and Janet Rodman  
 James W. Shelton  
 Anna Etheridge Sizemore  
 Jennifer Skvalara  
 Liz Stallings  
 David and Cynthia Swarner  
 Hannah Hill Tubaugh  
 Susan & Jeremy Watson  
 Chuck and Mia Williams  
 Carol & Larry Windley  
 Warren and Elaine Wood

Heather Deck  
 Melissa Francis  
 Marty Hackney  
 Margaret Holder  
 Paula Hopper  
 Ashley Howard  
 Lane Jackson  
 Jake and Mimi Jakubowski  
 Sue Jefferson  
 Rebecca M. Johnson  
 Ginny and David Jones  
 Leesa Jones  
 Sonia Kenner  
 Emily Leader  
 Beth Oden  
 Stephen Peed  
 Berenice Reyes  
 Brenda Rogers  
 Travis Rogerson  
 Judy Smith  
 Beverly Soto  
 Tommy and Pamela Swanner  
 Lexi Trejo  
 Dee Holland Vogt  
 Rick and Mickie Zablocki

**Cypress: Under \$50**

Justin Banks  
 Jim Barwick  
 Derris and Bettie Bonner  
 Bradshaw  
 Rebecca Clark  
 William and Ann Cummings