

RELEAF WASHINGTON

PLANT, PROMOTE, PROTECT

Welcome

Happy Spring to all our ReLeafers!

It has been another busy planting season with 49 trees in the ground and a few more to go!

As promised in the previous newsletter our first volunteer opportunity of the year will take place on Saturday, April 23rd. Please e-mail us at releafwashington@hotmail.com or call Heather at 252-945-1982 to be added to the list and receive further details.

The Planting Season



Let us help you recycle your plastic waste! We are looking for 3+ gallon containers so we can start some trees. These can be containers from trees you have planted or just empty buckets. Start saving them now and contact ReLeaf when you have some saved up.



Water boys Ben Hudson and Dick Leach attend to watering trees at our Washington Housing Authority site.

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www.releafwashington.com
 and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/>



Board members tend to a recently planted tree at BCCC.
 Left to Right: Ben Hudson, Attila Nemecz, Meredith Loughlin, Heather Thienpont

Board Members

Heather Moore Thienpont, President

Attila Nemecz, Vice President

Dick Leach, Treasurer

Susan Sizemore-Watson, Secretary

Meredith Loughlin

Ben Hudson

Let the Wild Things Grow

During this last year of planning and planting, a belief that I have long held was reinforced over and over: most people hate the wild. They will claim to love trees, but once you get further into conversation about it, their love seems limited to well-behaved trees. Well-behaved trees do not shed their leaves. They keep their roots tucked in. They do not stand in the way of mowers. They do as is expected of them.

Some of these expectations are reasonable. Our engineered world is not very flexible. Roads do not accommodate roots. Storm drains do not absorb leaves. At some point though, this domesticity deprives the trees of some of their most celebrated—and most ecologically important—characteristics. Wild trees build their own rich soil by dropping leaves and branches. They propagate themselves where they are most likely to survive. They feed communities with their nuts and fruit. They open themselves to the cavities of woodpeckers and owls and host beetles and butterflies at different stages of their lives.

In planting trees, we find out how much effort it takes to reproduce all the conditions that make wild trees so joyful and successful. Wild trees have intricate connections to fungal networks in the soil that help them absorb nutrients. In a forest, the older generation will shade younger ones during the harsh summer heat. They will even produce their own mist and rain. When we plant a lone tree in a parking lot, we become responsible for its survival.

There are going to be places in a city where wild trees are not compatible, which makes it all the more important that we nurture them where we can. Only one of our **P's** is **Plant**. Our other two are **Protect** and **Promote**. Here are some things you can do to protect and promote the wild if you have a yard or land:

- Cherish your trees that are not usually planted as street trees. These are your gums, beeches, hickories, and pines. Avoid cutting them down. These trees offer habitat and food for native wildlife and they will reward you with beautiful colors.
- Leave a small patch of yard wild. This can be as little as 1'x1', but 4'x4' is more ideal. See what comes up. It's important to control invasive plants, but you can watch the patch move through stages of succession until trees start to take root. See how much you are comfortable with. Could you let your patch double in size? Could you leave a quarter of your yard wild?
- Plan around your volunteers. A tree that has taken root is thriving and will be far more successful than a nursery plant.
- Leave dead trees standing. A tree lives a second life as a snag. They become homes for birds, insects, and fungi that are often rare because of the destruction of mature forests. If you are concerned about it falling, you can remove the canopy, leaving a stable trunk in place. Even if you take it down, keeping the logs on site can create important habitat.

If you do not have a yard or land, or you have run out of yard to rewild, you can work with ReLeaf Washington to promote restoration of wild spaces and the protection of our native trees and forests.

By Attila Nemezc, Vice President of ReLeaf Washington

2022 Quarterly Membership List

Live Oak: \$100 To \$499

Robin Arnold
 Gary Duncan
 Pat & Fred Holscher
 Mary Day Mordecai & Ned Hulbert
 Nan & Chris McLendon
 Wayland & Penny Sermons
 Larry & Sue Smithwick
 Lentz & Patricia Stowe

Red Oak: \$50 to \$99

Susan S. Dawson
 Lydie & Archie Jennings
 Rebecca M. Johnson
 Ginny & David Jones
 Nancy Leach
 Patrick & Carol Nash
 Essie O'Neal
 Anne Etheridge Sizemore
 Lewis & Sarah Sloan
 Tommy & Pamela Swanner

In Honor/Memory May 2021-May 2022

- ❖ Mack & Susan Simpson: In memory of Sally Ross Simpson Roseveare and Elizabeth Nash Butler
- ❖ ReLeaf Washington: In memory of Emory Morgan
- ❖ Edward Newburn: In memory of Thomas Sloan
- ❖ Bay Harbour Neighbours: In memory of Ronald Woolard
- ❖ H. Clay Carter: In memory of Mariah Gerow Lynch
- ❖ Dick & Becky Leach: In honor of John Sabin Leach, Jr.
- ❖ Sole Train Runners/Laurel Mackenzie: In memory of Jackson Griffin
- ❖ Beth & Chris Collier: In memory of Mariah Gerow Lynch
- ❖ Dr. Elizabeth & Russel Cook: In honor of Dr. Richard Young
- ❖ Delyle & Louise Evans: In honor of & in memory of LaRue M. Evans
- ❖ Mary Todd Mackenzie: In memory of Mariah Gerow Lynch
- ❖ Parker & Elizabeth Johnson: In honor of Becky and Dick Leach
- ❖ H. Clay Carter: In honor of Lou Carter and Mary Carter
- ❖ Sabin Leach: In memory of Richard Cox Leach
- ❖ Mary Todd Mackenzie: In memory of Cathy and Lee Cooper
- ❖ Susan S. Watson: In memory of Athy and Lee Cooper
- ❖ H. Clay Carter: In honor of Lauren and Brock Lynch
- ❖ Robin Arnold: In memory of Redding Lewis Cratch, Sr. and Verona Bailey Clark Cratch