



President's Letter

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President's Letter

Hello fellow ReLeafers,

It is my continued pleasure to write to you as president of ReLeaf.

This is the second of two newsletters for the 2013-2014 membership year/ planting season. We held Arbor Day this Spring on May 1st at Oakwood School. Students read their winning essays and two trees were planted by Oakwood's school sign. The North Carolina Forest Service recognized Greenville's 25th Year as a Tree City USA.

ReLeaf gave a presentation to the City Council in honor of Earth Day, illustrating the impact ReLeaf has had on Greenville's urban forestry. The widespread number of plantings and before and after photos were very impressive. It's only through your support that ReLeaf is able to carry out its goal to keep the green in Greenville.

Community Tree Day this coming Fall/Winter will be in the College View neighborhood. The City of Greenville and ReLeaf will collaborate closely with residents of the neighborhood in planning and preparing for the project. This will be an exciting, vibrant project.

As our season winds down, and summer is a time of transition, ReLeaf's Board will see changes in its members. We will elect a new President, and Vice-President. Some Chair positions will become open. If any of you would be interested in serving a term on the Board, we would love to have you!

ReLeaf appreciates all of you for your continued support. Special thanks to our Members, Commemorative Tree Donors, Board of Directors, City of Greenville Public Works, Chamber of Commerce, Oakwood School, and all the 4th & 5th grade teachers and students who helped recognize Arbor Day. I'll leave you with a few quotes from some of the essays the students wrote. You can go to our website, releaf.us, and read complete essays.

Thank you and have a great summer!

Janet Smith, President



Janet Smith

Quotes:

"A good way to bring people together is to have them plant trees in their neighborhood.

This can help people make friends and improve the environment at the same time!"

"We have a symbiotic relationship with trees. I feel deserted when I am in a place with no trees."

2014 Arbor Day

ReLeaf and the City of Greenville would like to thank the local schools that participated in our Annual Arbor Day Essay Contest and Program! 4th and 5th grade students from Eastern Elementary, The Oakwood School, South Greenville Elementary, and St. Peter's School submitted essays about the benefits of urban forestry. The following children received recognition and read their essays at the program hosted this year by The Oakwood School. To read their essays online, [click here](#).

Winning Essays:

Eastern Elementary 4th grade – Allison Dixon
Oakwood School 4th grade – Helayna Clark
Oakwood School 5th grade – Nicholas Brilliant
South Greenville 4th grade – Jaynia Hines
South Greenville 5th grade – Kayla Mills
St. Peter's School 5th grade – Lousia Burch

Honorable Mentions:

Eastern Elementary 4th grade – Chris Murray
Oakwood School 4th grade – Andrew Brinn
Oakwood School 5th grade – Drew Carlson
South Greenville 4th grade – Zimarria Moore
South Greenville 5th grade – Nia Jackson
St. Peter's School 5th grade – Sammy Tulis

The master of ceremonies was Kevin Barnes, PLA, a landscape architect from ECU and member of ReLeaf. Kevin Heifferon, the City Arborist, introduced the Forestry Service representatives and received the 25th Annual Tree City Flag. City Councilwoman Marion Blackburn, read Mayor Thomas' proclamation naming May 1st Arbor Day and provided encouraging words to the students for their work.



The City of Greenville marked a milestone on this Arbor Day with its 25th designation as a Tree City USA. To be eligible for the Tree City USA recognition, a city must have an Arbor Day observance and proclamation, a tree ordinance, a tree board or department (Community Appearance Commission fills this), and a community forestry program with an annual budget of more than \$160,000.

Children Embrace ReLeaf's Mission

The Oakwood School was proud to host ReLeaf's annual Arbor Day celebration on May 1st. ReLeaf has planted, promoted, and protected canopy trees in our community since 1990 offering a significant contribution to our wonderful city. ReLeaf also seeks to educate school children about the importance of trees to the environment by sponsoring an annual 4th and 5th grade essay writing contest on the importance of canopy trees and an Arbor Day celebration at a local school where the winners read their essays and trees are planted. Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees and today, many countries observe this holiday.

There is nothing as important as investing children in their future. The first American legislated Arbor Day was held in Nebraska City, Nebraska, in 1885, and children played a large role in this event. Over 1,000 children from Nebraska City marched in a parade, and Sterling Morton, an ardent conservationist and tree advocate, gave a passionate speech about the value of trees to our environment and to people. The students then returned to their schools where each class planted a tree. An estimated one million trees were planted in Nebraska on that first Arbor Day. It was understood from the start of this movement that children should be taught about conservation and the importance of trees and on April 15, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt issued an "Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States."

I deeply admire and respect ReLeaf's commitment to upholding the Arbor Day tradition by involving and educating Greenville's children in conserving and preserving their natural environment. Our Oakwood students and all the students who participated in the essay contest learned a great deal about the importance of trees from researching the topic and writing their essays. The students who attended the Arbor Day event at Oakwood learned important lessons by listening to the essays written by their peers and participating in the tree planting ceremony. It is critical that children value trees and understand their importance to the environment. Sterling Morton once said, "Each generation takes the earth as trustees." ReLeaf honors and supports this truth, and it was an honor for The Oakwood School to support ReLeaf's significant contributions to the city of Greenville.

Rob Peterson
Head of The Oakwood School



Commemorative Trees Donors (November 2013 to April 2014)

A \$100 tax-deductible donation enables the purchase and installation of trees in ReLeaf's annual planting program. A single Commemorative Tree Registration may honor or memorialize one person or a couple. Names of those honored or memorialized are displayed on a plaque in the Washington Street Lobby of the Municipal Building in downtown Greenville.

In Memory of:

Donald Herring
Lilian Hudson
Chia-yu Li
Shirley and Harold Lovick

Anita M. La Prade
Elizabeth K. Proctor
Edward T. Schlichting

In Honor of:

Gretchen Kemmer
Kathleen Rowan
Janet Smith
Bruce D. Wilhelmsen

News & Upcoming Events:

Community Tree Day Fall 2014

Plans are underway in the College View neighborhood, and we look forward to partnerships with East Carolina University and the Tar River/University Neighborhood Association. More information will be coming soon.

Partnerships

ReLeaf is currently working on some additional partnering opportunities in the community. Continue to check our website and Facebook page for more information as these are finalized.

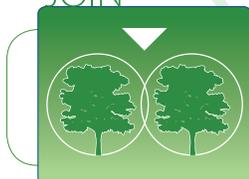
City Council Presentation

Marsha Wyly, with the ReLeaf Board of Directors, recently made a presentation to the Greenville City County. To view a copy of this presentation on our website [click here](#).

This will be Janet's last message to us as our President, and as a member of the board of directors of ReLeaf. We have all benefited by her investment, in her excitement, and energy, resulting in Greenville being much greener than it would be without her continued dedication to our efforts. Thank you Janet for all you do for us.

Your fellow Board Members

JOIN



If you're not a current member, consider joining with this application or online!

ReLeaf Membership Application

Your Name _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Type of Membership

To make sure you receive our Newsletter, please provide your email address.

_____ Under \$50	Acorn Fund	_____ \$50	Elm Level	ReLeaf, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your membership is tax-deductible. You can renew your membership online at www.releaf.us , or mail to: Releaf, Inc., PO Box 4072, Greenville, NC 27836-2072
_____ \$100	Maple Level	_____ \$250	Beech Level	
_____ \$500	Oak Level	_____ \$1,000	Cypress Level	

* Full Membership is available at the Elm Level and above. _____ I am interested in serving on ReLeaf's Board of Directors/Advisory Board.

Commemorative Tree Donation Form

Your Information

Your Name _____

Email Address _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip Code _____

Person(s) to Honor or Memorialize

Name _____

Honor _____ Memorialize _____

Email Address _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip Code _____

Name _____

Honor _____ Memorialize _____

Email Address _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip Code _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible check for \$ _____, payable to ReLeaf, Inc.

Comments or additional information:

Mail the check and this form to:
ReLeaf, Inc.
PO Box 4072
Greenville, NC 27836-2072

You can also GIVE A TREE online at www.releaf.us.