



## April 2021 Newsletter

### GiveBIG, Birds, and More Spring Events!

As we approach the final month of spring, we hope you join us for one, or more, of the virtual events mentioned in this newsletter! **As an important part of the PeaceTrees community, we encourage you to keep an eye out for upcoming emails so that you don't miss any important event details!**



#### May 4th-5th: Join PeaceTrees for GiveBIG

GiveBIG is a statewide fundraising campaign that gives individuals and organizations an opportunity to come together, and support causes that matter. During this 48-hour giving event, we invite you to renew your support to PeaceTrees by making a contribution, big or small, to help with our life-saving work! This year, GiveBIG is May 4-5, but why wait to make your tax-deductible donation?

[Donate Now!](#)

#### May 6th: PeaceTrees Presents- Birds of Vietnam

PeaceTrees is hosting an event on Thursday, May 6th at 6pm PST on the birds of Vietnam. Renowned birder, Susan Myers, who has led over 30 birding tours to Vietnam, will be speaking about avian life in Vietnam and our friends at [Seattle Audubon](#) will be providing a local perspective on bird conservation. Midway through the event, [Mixaphoria](#) will be demonstrating how to make a specialty cocktail, The Lost Bird! We hope you join us to learn more about birds and how the legacy of war impacts wildlife and civilian life in Vietnam today.



A Siamese Fireback, Bar-bellied Pitta, and Black-hooded Laughingthrush in Vietnam- photos courtesy of Susan Myers

[Register for FREE here!](#)

### Updates from Vietnam

#### Clearing Land for Local Farmers

This spring, local authorities and residents expressed their appreciation and admiration for PeaceTrees' rapid response to clearance requests so that flood-impacted farmers could safely begin to cultivate crops this season. Our teams located and safely removed 26 explosive remnants of war and cleared over 153,000 square meters of land meant for growing cassava, bananas, coffee, and other important crops. Safely clearing land for farming is an important part of our work and helps communities secure economic opportunities for themselves and their families!



PeaceTrees technicians clear sites for agricultural activities



PeaceTrees technicians clear sites for agricultural activities

#### PeaceTrees Spring Training

With our more recent expansion to Quảng Bình Province, PeaceTrees EOD technicians have been regularly participating in important trainings. On a rotating basis, Quảng Bình project technicians join our Quảng Trị teams to learn from experienced technicians and better understand working conditions. Continued on-the-job training in Quảng Bình is being led by PeaceTrees team leaders from who are highly certified and experienced in their demining training! Earlier this spring, 22 field medics and field staff received a refresher of their emergency and first aid training.



Field mentoring and on-the-job training for Quảng Bình technicians



PeaceTrees technicians participating in a training course on emergency and custom first aid

### Tax Day and Easy Ways to Support PeaceTrees Vietnam

#### Making a Charitable Donation from your IRA

With Tax Day extended to May 17th this year, we want to make sure you know all the ways that you can support our important work! Did you know that donating from your IRA could lower your taxable income? If you are 70.5 years of age or older, you are eligible to make a QCD (qualified charitable distribution)! Not only will you be supporting PeaceTrees, but the QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income (unlike regular IRA withdrawals). **We invite you to speak with your financial advisor about giving to PeaceTrees from your retirement account!**

#### Donating a Vehicle to PeaceTrees

We will resume our PeaceTrees travel stories next newsletter, but on the topic of Tax Day we thought this month we might highlight a different kind of testimonial! Bob Stokes, a lifelong friend, and supporter of PeaceTrees, recently donated a car to support our work and got a tax deduction out of it! Read his story to learn how quick and easy the experience was:

*"We donated a car to PeaceTrees this spring and it was a terrific experience! The extra vehicle was taking up space, and it was costing me money to license and insure it. I had dreaded the hassle of advertising the car for sale or bargaining with a dealer but when I realized I could donate it to PeaceTrees I found it an incredibly easy and rewarding solution!"*

*It was a snap! I clicked on the PeaceTrees website link about car donations, received a phone call, exchanged two short emails, the car was picked up by two friendly people, and they sold it and sent me the tax deduction forms. After waving goodbye to the car, I realized the whole thing took only a week and about 30 minutes of my own time. I unloaded the car, it was auctioned for far more than I could have realized, PeaceTrees got a very nice gift and I got a tax deduction and the feeling of doing something worthwhile supporting PeaceTrees humanitarian mission. What's not to like?"*



Click the above graphic to learn more about donating a vehicle to PeaceTrees!

### Community Events:

Below are virtual events happening in the coming weeks that we think the PeaceTrees community might be interested in attending! These events are hosted by a variety of other groups and we encourage you to follow the corresponding links if you want to learn more.

#### April 28th: Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai With Karl Marlantes Discuss "The Mountains Sing"

The Seattle Public Library is hosting a virtual discussion from 6-7pm PST with Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai, author of the international bestseller, "The Mountains Sing," and Karl Marlantes, friend of PeaceTrees and author of "Deep River," "Matterhorn," and "What It's Like to Go to War." Space is limited for this virtual event and registration is required. [Click here to visit the event page and register!](#)

#### May 1st: 46 Years After the End of the Vietnam War: A Conversation About Empathy and Healing

Join author Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai again for an online event at 5:30 pm PST with Thuy Bui, author of "The Best We Could Do." These two writers will join Phillip Nguyen, President of the Union of North American Vietnamese Student Associations, for a lively conversation centered on healing. [This event is free and you can learn more by visiting the Oakland Asian Cultural Center website.](#)

#### May 8th: SUVSA's 16th Annual Xuân Festival

Seattle University's Vietnamese Student Association is hosting their 16th annual culture festival, Xuân Này Con Không Về (This Spring I Won't Be Home), on May 8th at 3pm. This year's theme honors Mother's Day and centers the resilience of Vietnamese mothers, especially in the face of a global pandemic. This event is free, virtual, and open to the public. [Click here to visit the Facebook event page to learn more!](#)



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#### Looking for a creative way to support PeaceTrees Vietnam from home?

When you are online shopping, consider Amazon Smile and set PeaceTrees as your beneficiary! AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on

Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). The donation will be made at no extra cost to you, and you will be contributing to PeaceTrees Vietnam's lifesaving work while you shop!



For more information contact us at 206-441-6136 or [info@peacetreestreesvietnam.org](mailto:info@peacetreestreesvietnam.org)

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