



May 2021 Newsletter

THANK YOU for Joining PeaceTrees for GiveBIG 2021!

Thank you so much for supporting PeaceTrees during GiveBIG at the beginning of May! With the help of our enthusiastic and generous community, **we raised nearly \$10,000** to support our scholarship program!



Updates from Vietnam

PeaceTrees in Quang Binh

Earlier this year, PeaceTrees EOD teams discovered 92 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) on a 6-acre family farm in Coi Loc Ninh commune. **After such shocking results, our teams expanded clearance operations to the surrounding area and were able to safely clear 39 acres and remove an additional 140 items of UXO.** When PeaceTrees teams came back to check on the farm one month later, they saw watermelons growing and farmer Nguyen Van Hoanh said, "This land is safe now. Our family plans to develop a two-hectare cow farm right here!"

PeaceTrees has also been working in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (one of the largest protected areas in Vietnam), and home to the medicinal plant, Bo Chinh Ginseng. Due to overharvesting, the National Park Management Board developed a project to plant Bo Chinh Ginseng under the canopy of natural forest within the park's protected boundaries. To support this conservation effort, PeaceTrees EOD teams conducted clearance operations of a 2.5-acre area in the ecological rehabilitation zone from April 12-May 12. As a result, 30 items of UXO were safely removed! **This is the sixth locally requested site in Quang Binh that PeaceTrees has been able to safely clear since the beginning of the year!**



PeaceTrees EOD technician at work in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park- May 2021



PeaceTrees EOD technician searching for UXO in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park- May 2021

COVID in Vietnam

As many of you likely know, Vietnam has been hit with another wave of COVID-19. PeaceTrees hopes that the swift and proactive response from the Vietnamese government will help keep all our friends and community partners safe in Vietnam. We are grateful for the continued health and safety of our team and their families and cannot wait to be together with them in person when it is safe to do so!

While some operations at PeaceTrees have changed in response to COVID, we are pleased to report our EOD teams have still been regularly responding to calls from the community and safely clearing land. **Wrapping up our first quarter of the year, PeaceTrees' EOD teams responded to 197 calls and cleared 1,098 explosive remnants of war!**



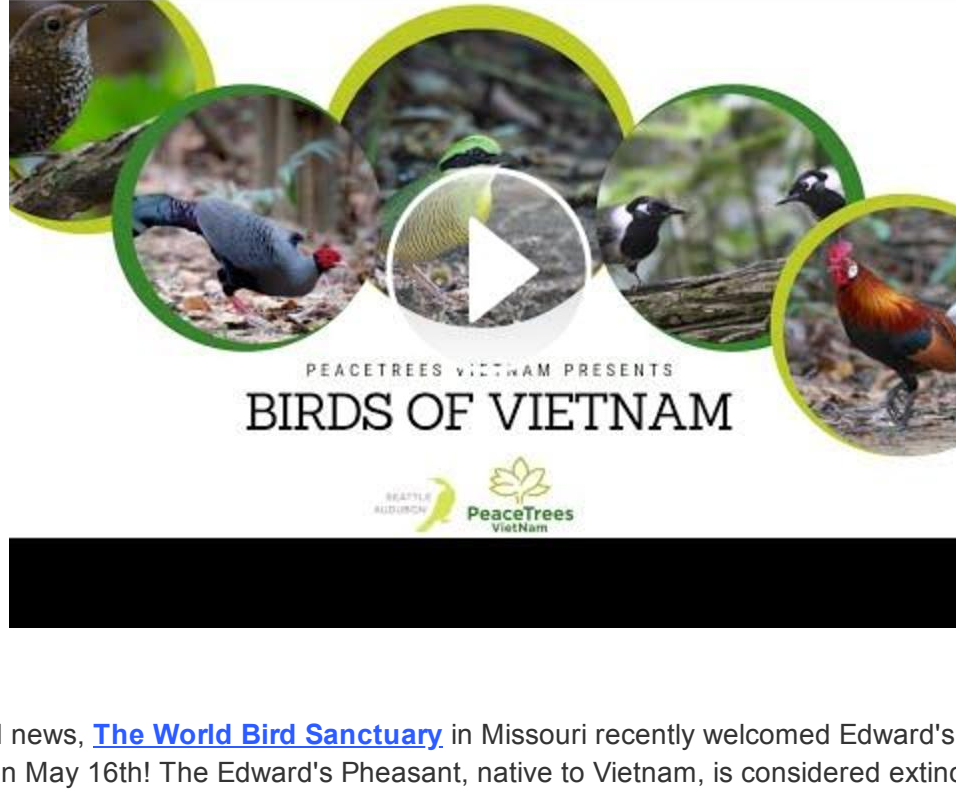
A PeaceTrees EOD team removing a dangerous explosive remnant of war-April 2021



A PeaceTrees EOD technician responding to a spot task-April 2021

More Bird News!

Earlier this month, PeaceTrees celebrated Migratory Bird Day by hosting a Birds of Vietnam event! This webinar featured the beautiful sights (and sounds) that one might encounter on a birding trip to Vietnam. We would like to thank Susan Myers, of WINGS Birding Tours Worldwide, and Wendy Walker from Seattle Audubon for their informative presentations. If you missed the event, you can view a recording by clicking below!



In other bird news, [The World Bird Sanctuary](#) in Missouri recently welcomed Edward's Pheasants hatchlings on May 16th! The Edward's Pheasant, native to Vietnam, is considered extinct in the wild and was last seen in Vietnam in 2000. This rapid extinction was in large part due to the destruction of habitat and use of chemical weapons during the war in Vietnam. Now that the forests in Vietnam are considered healthy enough, the World Bird Sanctuary is looking to be the first North American facility to introduce young Edward's Pheasants back to their homeland in Vietnam! [Learn more about this effort and see a photo of this adorable newcomer by clicking here!](#)

Meet a PeaceTrees Deminer

This section started as PeaceTrees travel stories, but we have since expanded it and want to help our community get to know the brave and dedicated people who work to clear UXO every day. **This month, we interviewed Trần Văn Tú, who has been working with PeaceTrees since 2009! Learn more about Trần Văn Tú and the work he does by reading the interview below:**

Could you please introduce yourself and tell us about the work you do at PeaceTrees VietNam?

I'm Trần Văn Tú. My home town is in Gio Linh district, Quang Tri province. I'm the Quality Assurance Officer of PeaceTrees VietNam. I have been working for PeaceTrees since 2009, and my job is to supervise the organization's demining activities in Dakrong district, including of 3 Battle Area Clearance teams, 1 Explosive Ordnance Disposal team and 2-3 Clearance Supporting teams. Every day, I go to the site to supervise the searching and signal processing techniques, ensure the Standard Operating Procedures well followed by teams; check and evaluate staff's performance on site. I also teach and assist in training IMAS (International Mine Action Standards) training courses for PeaceTrees staff.

How does working for PeaceTrees make you feel?

I feel that my job at PTVN is very good and has many advantages. Though having mountainous and remote working area, my colleagues and I always receive the highest support from the organization in terms of working and living conditions. We are well equipped with modern machinery and equipment to improve work efficiency. Especially, we are regularly trained to improve our capacity, such as participating in IMAS 1,2,3 courses, IT or management skills. With such care and favorable conditions, I am so delighted with my work at PeaceTrees.

PeaceTrees has been around for 25 years and contributed to the joint efforts to address the war's legacy. In your opinion, what has helped make this effort a success?

I think the founding of PeaceTrees VietNam itself is a touching, human and inspirational story. And in my opinion, there are many factors that contribute to the success of the organization. First, the mission set forth by the founders of the organization echo with the dedication of the staff from the early days until now. The care and cooperation of the Government at all levels, agencies and local people. Especially the great trust, companionship and support of donors over the years. Thanks to that, we have come such a long way and done many helpful things for the community. Do you know? PeaceTrees not only works in the UXO clearance, Landmine Victim Assistance, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, but we do involve in community development support and consider ourselves as a bridge of friendship between people of Viet Nam and the United States of America.

Before COVID-19, PeaceTrees hosted many Citizen Diplomacy trips to bring US friends to visit PeaceTrees' activities in Quang Tri. Working for the organization for such long time, you must have met many of them already! What do you think about the Citizen Diplomacy trips?

Before the pandemic, every year we welcomed many groups of guests and friends from the United States. They were very interested in the activities that PeaceTrees was doing to address the war's legacies in general and about our demining work in particular. They also visited kindergartens, villages, planted trees, had meals and made friends with local people. When they went back home, they could share with their friends and family about what they saw and how they felt in Vietnam. I see that such trips are good opportunities to help enhance the mutual understanding between the people of two countries and the friendship between our two nations. Some guests have come back to visit PeaceTrees two or three more times. They recognized me, and asked me about my work. I'm very happy.

Anything else that you want to share?

I would like to thank the donors, thanks to you, our UXO contaminated land is being cleared and returned to the people for farming and living safely and children can enjoy their childhood without threat of explosive ordnance accident.



Trần Văn Tú on the job



Trần Văn Tú posing for a quick photo

Community Events:

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

The Washington DC History and Culture Group Presents: Rock-N-Roll 1965-1973: Vietnam-Woodstock Music History Program

Join this virtual event on Saturday, May 29th at 5pm PST to learn more about the history and importance of music during the Vietnam War era. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Seadrift Documentary Screening and Discussion

The University of Houston Center for Public History and Foodways Texas is hosting a virtual panel discussion with the filmmakers, participants, and researchers from the documentary, *Seadrift*. This documentary won the Spotlight Award at the Viet Film Fest in 2019 and follows events from 1979 that led to an eruption of violence against Vietnamese refugee communities on the Gulf Coast. [To learn more about the documentary and register for this event on June 16th, click here.](#)

The Grand Re-Opening of the Seattle Asian Art Museum

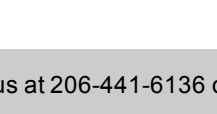
The highly anticipated opening of the Seattle Asian Art Museum is finally here! **The museum is opening its doors to the public starting on May 28th.** Purchasing tickets before your visit is required and tickets will become available every Thursday at 10am. [Please visit their site to learn more about how to plan for your visit!](#)



You shop. Amazon gives.

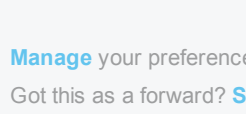
[Looking for a better way to support PeaceTrees Vietnam from home?](#)

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](#). 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@peacetreesvietnam.org

Share this email:



Manage your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

509 Olive W Suite 1226
Seattle, WA | 98101 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.