



A LIVING TRIBUTE: NEW PROGRAM PROVIDES A PERSONAL PIECE OF NATURE PRESERVE IN WASHINGTON STATE

Earth Sanctuary on Whidbey Island announces its Memorial Tree Program to honor people, pets, anniversaries, or milestones while supporting a 500-year plan for a self-sustaining, old growth forest



L-R: Earth Sanctuary is home to an peaceful and magical forest with more than 30 species of trees; walk the two-mile trail to view wildlife, art installations and sacred spaces; Earth Sanctuary Founder Chuck Pettis with a Memorial Tree marker.

Langley, Wash. - August 11, 2020 - Earth Sanctuary, a 72-acre nature preserve on Washington's Whidbey Island, introduces its Memorial Tree Program, offering an opportunity to purchase or gift a tree to honor a loved one, mark a milestone or to simply combat climate change. Each tree will be planted and maintained by resident naturalists, becoming a part of the preserve's 500-year plan to create a self-sustaining, old-growth forest.

From May to July of this year, Earth Sanctuary received a 44 percent increase in visitors, welcoming those seeking respite from the global health crisis. Now visitors can return nature's favor, and own a piece of its future, by supporting its mission.

"Many of us have had increased feelings of chaos and confusion as the pandemic impacts the world, and while we abide by public health recommendations, this is also a time where we can do small things to make the world a better place," said Earth Sanctuary Founder Chuck Pettis. "The Memorial Tree Program develops and maintains healthy forests that create and sustain wildlife habitats and diverse balanced ecosystems. Trees combat climate change and global warming while creating oxygen for healthier, cleaner air."

Twenty years ago, when Earth Sanctuary founder Chuck Pettis began clearing, creating and planning the nature preserve, the goal was three-fold: achieve its 500-year plan to create a mature old-growth forest for the earth's future; create a nature preserve with maximum wildlife diversity and population; and fight climate change by planting thousands of trees.

Throughout the old-growth forest, sacred spaces, sculptures, and wide variety of wildlife, Pettis has planted more than 15,000 native plants and 3,300 trees since 2000. His 500-year plan was developed with a variety of ecologists and experts to ensure that a healthy, self-sustaining forest will prosper. The program is detailed in the [Memorial Tree](#) portion of Earth Sanctuary's website, suggesting support for planting longer-term trees to replace red alder, which has a short lifespan. Cedars, spruces, firs, pines, redwoods, sequoias, and other varieties will be planted.



Learn more about the Memorial Tree Program at www.earthsanctuary.com.

About Earth Sanctuary

Located 90 minutes from Seattle, Earth Sanctuary is a magical and peaceful sculpture garden, nature reserve, and retreat center that combines ecology, art and spirit to create a place for exploration of all kinds. The 72-acre landscape includes two miles of nature trails, a peat bog fen complex, streams and three waterfowl ponds. A variety of sculptures welcome visitors to explore the stone circles, labyrinths, and other interactive, tactile installations. The forested habitat is home to more than 100 species of birds, while a variety of wildlife like beavers and deer are frequently spotted. The ponds and bog fen complex have been designated as a “habitat of local importance” by the Whidbey Audubon Society and Island County Critical Areas program. The new Memorial Tree program invites the public to get involved, join the mission at Earth Sanctuary and support its 500-year plan to create a self-sustaining, old-growth forest. Learn more at www.earthsanctuary.com and @TheEarthSanctuary on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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