Celebrating Reston Association’s Outstanding Volunteers from 2018
Reston Association’s Volunteer Program

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
The Reston Association Board of Directors and staff extend their sincere appreciation and a heartfelt thanks to the more than 1,423 volunteers, business and community partners who give generously of their time throughout the year making a positive impact on the community.

The Volunteer Reston Service Awards provide our community with a special opportunity to come together during National Volunteer Month, to recognize and thank our wonderful volunteers who last year contributed more than 21,702 hours of their time, talent and support to the Reston community.

Volunteering and community service are deeply rooted in Reston's history thanks to our founder Robert E. Simon, Jr., and everyday volunteers demonstrate their passion for giving back. They make an immeasurable impact, not only supporting RA activities and programs, but on the community as a whole.

RA volunteers consist of people with a variety of different skill levels and age groups, including: individuals, corporate teams, faith-based groups, families, college students, retirees, scouts and youth community service volunteers. Some of these volunteers have been involved in Reston for many years. They help at community events and festivals, provide office and program support and participate in workdays, cleanup projects at Reston lakes or along the pathways. Other volunteers choose to serve on the RA Board of Directors, Design Review Board, advisory committees and working groups. RA volunteers all have one thing in common — they share a passion for making Reston a better place to live, work, play and get involved.

If you are interested getting involved and supporting Volunteer Reston, contact Ha Brock, Volunteer Reston Manager, at habrock@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

2019 Volunteer Reston Service Awards
Recognizing RA’s Outstanding 2018 Volunteers

Reception
6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Welcome and Awards Program
Hank Lynch, CEO, Reston Association
7:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Volunteer Service Awards
Tonight we honor individuals, groups and community partners nominated by community members and RA staff for their dedication and service to the Reston Association and the Reston community.
Presenters: Andy Sigle, Master of Ceremonies
Ha Brock, Volunteer Reston Manager

- Volunteers of the Year – Doug Britt & Cindy Metcalf
- 55+ Volunteer of the Year – Don Coram
- Presenter: Supervisor Hudgins - Group Volunteer of the Year – Southgate Community Center Advisory Council
- Community Partner of the Year – PASS in the Community
- Work Group of the Year – The Pony Barn Working Group

Recognition of Outgoing Reston Association Board Directors
We would like to thank our outgoing Board members for their service and dedication to the Reston community.

- Andy Sigle, President
- Sherri Hebert, Lake Anne/Tall Oaks District Director

Reception Continues
8:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
2019 Board of Directors

Catherine A. Baum
President
Apartment Owners’ Representative

Julie Bitzer
Vice President
South Lakes District Director

John Mooney
Secretary
North Point District Director

Eric Carr
Treasurer
At-Large Director

Aaron Webb
LakeAnne/Tall Oaks
District Director

Caren Anton
Hunters Woods/Dogwood
District Director

Ven Iyer
At-Large Director

2019 Reston Association Service Awards Winners

Volunteering and community services are deeply rooted in Reston’s history thanks to our founder Robert E. Simon, Jr. and everyday volunteers demonstrate their passion for giving back. Our volunteers truly live the motto of live, work, play and get involved. Every year, a handful of volunteers go above and beyond to support RA and the Reston community. As we honor these six award winners, we also recognize and thank all RA volunteers that have given generously of their time and talents each year. These awards are a fantastic opportunity for us to recognize and appreciate our unsung heroes. Please join us in congratulating our 2019 Volunteer Reston Service Awards recipients.

Volunteer of the Year
Doug Britt, Virginia Master Naturalist

Doug Britt has been instrumental in collecting environmental data and sharing it with the Reston board and public through our Reston Annual State of the Environment Report (RASER). Doug is always willing to help out. He is one of our experienced stream monitors who seasonally look at the life in the streams. He went to a RiverWatch training and now monitors additional parameters monthly at his stream site in North Reston off of Lake Newport Road. Doug also participates on the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and is the EAC liaison on the Lakes, Docks & Boats (LDB) Working Group. Doug has helped keep the LDB Working Group focused and has created a report on the environmental impacts to our lakes for the group. In addition, Doug helped with the fishing portion of the Bioblitz, where we stocked and identified which fish live in our streams. He helped out at the stream monitoring station at the Nature Center’s Spring Festival and has presented numerous presentations on the Reston Annual State of the Environment Report (RASER).

Doug has been an excellent resource for the natural areas and watershed team. His background and knowledge help RA staff accomplish goals set out in our work plans. His ability to collect and compile data in a user-friendly way has helped RA provide a voice to the nature of Reston through the RASER.

This past year, Doug wrote an article published in the Reston magazine about shade gardening using his backyard as an example of how the rest of us can landscape with plants other than turf grass (which does not do well in shade). Doug also realized RA staff has a lot of knowledge of what is living in Reston, but there hasn’t been anything to document this scientifically. As a result, staff coordinated the first Reston Bioblitz in June, and Doug put on his waders and collected and identified fish in the streams. This was something we have never done before at RA.

Doug has a calm demeanor and has been great to have on the Lakes, Docks & Boats Working Group. He created a report for the group that identified the environmental impacts our lakes face. Doug is always willing to lend a hand at a festival or volunteer event. He is professional in every setting and has presented to the RA Board of Directors on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and to the public on updates to the RASER, which explains the state of the environment and also opens doors to new opportunities. Specifically, after a RASER presentation, Delegate Ken Plum connected RA with the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) to get fish surveys done on the Reston lakes, which would have cost RA over $9,000 if done privately.
Cindy Metcalf

Cindy coordinates and leads class instruction to youth/adults on how to start a garden, and she also volunteers her time as a garden plot coordinator at Lake Anne Garden Plot. She monitors the condition and health of the garden plot as a whole, including water troughs, compost bins, infestations of invasive species, reporting unused plots and informing RA’s Environmental Resource Supervisor if assistance is needed. She is the eyes and ears for the Lake Anne Garden Plot. She also maintains RA Camps Garden Plot #29 by keeping up with the watering, weeding, mulching, planting, harvesting and donating crops.

Cindy transformed Lake Anne Garden Plot #29, which was designated for RA Camps. She took a barren fenced space and turned it into a work of art. The RA staff and Cindy reached out to Home Depot and got donations of tools for the kids to use during the summer camp sessions, and Cindy donated her own supplies to help start the raised beds at plot #29. She spent countless hours visiting the plot and planting seeds she germinated herself at her home. She transformed the barren plot and oversaw construction of the raised beds. She spends many countless hours keeping up with the plot by watering and pulling weeds. Cindy frequently educates our summer campers about gardening, including allowing the children to pick fruits and vegetables.

Cindy assisted Friends of Reston (FOR) in applying for a Garden Grant with Whole Kids Foundation. There were many requirements on the application that we had to meet to be eligible, and one of the criteria was to have a Community Partner. She reached out to the Lake Anne Garden Plot neighbor the Unitarian-Universalist Church, and this summer RA campers will harvest the garden and share the fruits of their labor with the church community.

Cindy spends much of her free time and money making the RA Garden Plots a successful part of our community. When she is not working full time as a Realtor, she uses her knowledge as a Virginia Master Gardener educating other enthusiasts. Cindy’s dedication and passion for gardening have not only transformed RA’s Garden Plots but have passed on a love of gardening through the programs she has led. She is the eyes and ears for the Lake Anne Garden Plot.

He cares deeply for Reston’s environment and will jump into action when local wildlife such as Reston’s pollinators are in danger. He is a talented writer and photographer whose skills enhance RA publications and projects.

Don deserves this award because he always takes his participation to the next level. For example, after being a Dragonfly Count participant for several years, he became a co-presenter and leader a few years ago and now is the primary leader of this activity. His strong academic background makes him a great fit for citizen science in Reston. Although Don has a passion for invertebrates, his versatility and breadth of natural history knowledge is noteworthy. While many naturalists pursue just one or two areas of interest, Don is eager to learn about and inventory many groups, as indicated by his dedicated participation in all three of Reston’s Counts (including those for Butterflies and Birds). Don regularly extends his volunteer time to search out hard-to-find or new species not seen by the groups. He spends a good portion of his own time photographing wildlife around Reston, sharing his pictures with the Nature Center, and he kindly authorizes RA to use his images in media. This past year, Don was a key volunteer in Reston’s first BioBlitz, helping to inventory as many plants and animals in a 24-hour period as possible. Not only does Don serve on the RASER Working Group, but he is the primary author of the invertebrate chapter.

This past year, Don took the initiative to be the first data collector on a new citizen science initiative at the Walker Nature Center, called Caterpillars Count. This is a national research project about the links between arthropod and avian phenology. Don worked closely with the Nature Center manager and a postdoctoral associate from Georgetown University to set up the sampling. He demonstrated leadership skills and recruited another volunteer to help. This effort took great commitment as monitoring was required over several months on a weekly basis. The pilot was a success and will be expanded in 2019 with Don agreeing to lead a presentation and training for others. It simply would not have happened without Don.

We are always happy to see him hiking through Reston’s natural areas, inspecting the critters in the Nature Center garden or looking for waterfowl on Reston’s lakes. We know that he is not only appreciating the wildlife for his own benefit but also for the greater benefit of others in the community and for the conservation of what he observes on the local and global levels.

55+ Volunteer of the Year

Don Coram, Virginia Master Naturalist

Don is one of Reston’s leading citizen scientists. He collects data on Reston’s fauna, in particular, insects and other arthropods. He submits it not only to RA but to various online national databases. He also is a researcher and writer who authored the Invertebrate Chapter of Reston State of the Environment Report (RASER) and he is a presenter/trainer who teaches others about dragonfly identification for Reston’s Annual Dragonfly Count.

When first organized in 2005, the main mission of the Southgate Community Center Advisory Council (SCCAC) was to provide a direct connection between the center and the community to ensure that the services and programs addressed the identified needs. The SCCAC still provides this vital link but also so much more. Through the dedication and long-term commitment of the members, the SCCAC has evolved into a vibrant, energetic and collaborative group that has made significant enhancements not only to the center, but the community at large.

Volunteer of the Year

Don Coram, Virginia Master Naturalist

Don dedicates four days per year to volunteer with the Caterpillars Count initiative. He is also a researcher and writer who authored the Invertebrate Chapter of Reston State of the Environment Report (RASER) and he is a presenter/trainer who teaches others about dragonfly identification for Reston’s Annual Dragonfly Count.

He is a trained naturalist and a certified Virginia Master Naturalist who shares his expertise on numerous RA environmental projects. He is a regular participant in Reston’s Wildlife Counts, including the Bird, Butterfly and Dragonfly Counts. He is an inquisitive researcher who brings new information to light for projects such as the RASER.

Group Volunteer Service of the Year

Southgate Community Center Advisory Council (SCCAC)
The SCCAC has truly gone above and beyond to make sure the staff, youth, teens and adults of the Southgate Community Center are supported, listened to and well represented throughout Reston and Fairfax County. The council comprises of nonprofit leaders, homeowner’s association leaders, police, teachers, social workers, business owners, youth, parents, participants of the center and county employees. This diverse and all-inclusive group of community leaders is the epitome of what community building truly is. Their passion for public service and their ongoing effort to bridge the gaps of services in our community are to be admired.

This past year, the members of the SCCAC not only provided program support but developed initiatives that will benefit the center and the community for years to come:
- Creation of the Wall of Honor. The wall was established to honor extraordinary Reston community members who will be remembered for their public service to the Southgate Community Center. The first residents of the wall are long-time SCCAC member and first lady of Reston, Ellen Graves, and community leader Dennis Lee.
- Creation of the SCCAC website. Developed by students from George Mason University Honors program (recruited by SCCAC members), the website provides new communications and outreach tools that provide a public view and transparency to the work of the SCCAC.
- Creation of the Friends of Southgate, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The creation of the Friends opens up a new universe of funding and partnering opportunities to enhance the existing programs and address unmet or unfunded needs. Already the Friends have raised and returned nearly $4,000 to the center for program support.
- Support for a Kaboom Playground Grant Application. This grant is for constructing a much-needed playground at the Center. Southgate Community Center is a finalist at this time.

Onsite, hands-on support for the programs, staff and participants at the center is still a prime focus of the SCCAC. Members contribute countless hours and talents to assist with many activities:
- Contributions and support for the Elf Store, where 100 children picked out gifts for their parents and families
- Collaboration with RA and Reston Community Center for Day of Service projects at the center in conjunction with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration
- Mobile Food Market assistance for the over 350 patrons who attend each month
- Continuing leadership for free yoga and pickleball programs for senior residents
- Volunteering time to staff the front desk and phones when the center was critically short of staff

With new fundraising efforts, the SCCAC has been active in pursuing funding opportunities and returning the proceeds to the center. In 2018, the SCCAC augmented the center programs with funds for youth and teen STEM field trips, much needed art supplies and projects for summer camps, basketball and soccer uniforms for the center’s intramural teams, Community Day raffles, sponsorship for Southgate’s Got Talent competition, and staff sweatshirts and lunches for morale boosters.

On the horizon:
Even more important than the above list of accomplishments are the intangibles that SCCAC members provide that truly make the center a special place. Without a doubt, each SCCAC member genuinely cares about the children and families of this community, and this feeling shows when they come together. From the perspective of the center users, the SCCAC members provide a role model of a caring community leader. They are living, walking examples of how adults can make a positive difference in their community and neighborhood. And, most importantly these days, they provide an example of how understanding and collaboration can work to mutually benefit everyone.

The members of the SCCAC are truly a dedicated, talented and creative group. They have drawn on their professional and business networks and out-of-the-box thinking to bring new initiatives and connections to the center.

Visitors’ first impressions of Reston should be warm and inviting. Visitors and residents should immediately feel that they have entered a community where people care about their surroundings, and PASS is one of the Reston businesses that do care. PASS has been a long-time supporter of keeping Reston beautiful. Over the course of a three-year partnership with RA, they have contributed financially and through in-kind contributions to beautification efforts in our community. In the spring of 2018, they participated in a litter cleanup around Bordeaux Recreation Area. PASS volunteers collected 18 bags of trash and seven bags of recyclables. In fall 2018, PASS volunteers worked with RA environmental resource and watershed staff on a daffodil beautification project. Volunteers planted close to 1,000 daffodil bulbs along the Reston Parkway median. Thanks to PASS, this spring residents and visitors will enjoy a beautiful stand of daffodils to brighten people’s day as they drive in and out of Reston. In previous years, PASS volunteers have also conducted a cleanup at Snakeden Branch, sponsored a recycling bin at Hunters Woods Park and helped RA Aquatics staff with administrative tasks.

We are so proud of the growth of our partnership over the past few years. PASS volunteers show up with smiles and determination to get the job done, and it shows. This team works hard and is a truly an amazing group of people. Thank you, PASS, for keeping Reston beautiful.
The Pony Barn Working Group, which was really the first recent “working group” for a specific project, worked tirelessly over four years to develop the Pony Barn Concept Plan. Working closely with staff and the consultant on the early concepts, their work included multiple design changes to fit budgets, code limitations, as well as RA board directives. The group also presented a number of times at both RA Board and Design Review Board meetings, both of which were important milestones in the approval process. They successfully overcame these challenges and provided unwavering support to RA staff that was instrumental to the eventual success of the project.

Renette Oklewicz and Marianne Zawitz were the two champions of the Pony Barn Renovation Project. They were joined by Bob & Judy Wolf, Dale Erickson, Pat & Paul Dunham, Belinda Collins, Micki Moravitz, Louis Finch and Lyn Jagger (John Williams) and many others through the process. It was the dogged determination of Renette and Marianne that kept the project going in the face of adversity, first with analyzing and prioritizing design aspects, and then also developing and giving presentations. They stayed involved with the project from the beginning to the end by providing feedback and support all along the way. They attended almost all working group meetings, were key to the decision-making and provided staff support and guidance.

Ken Fredgren was key to ensuring that the Pony Barn Project was inclusive to all users by providing valuable input from the accessibility community. This included input on parking and pathway design as well as amenities. He attended working group meetings and board meetings to voice his support for ADA compliance and was instrumental in pushing the project to execution.

The end result is a renovated and accessible Pony Barn Pavilion and site, the last pavilion to get a coveted concrete floor — versus wood chips — a new play structure, an artistic bike rack, lighting and more. This group showed how determination and prioritizing design aspects, and then also developing and giving presentations. They stayed involved with the project from the beginning to the end by providing feedback and support all along the way. They attended almost all working group meetings, were key to the decision-making and provided staff support and guidance.

Congratulations to all our honorees!
Friends of Reston Board of Directors (FOR)

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Bonnie Haukness, Vice-president
Glenn Walker, Secretary
Tom Diehl, Treasurer
May Bernhardt, Director
Janine Greenwood, Director
Fran Lovaas, Director
Marcus Luczak, Director
Andy Sigle, Ex-officio Director
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Reston Community Center
Reston Environmental Action
David Shaw
Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Reston

Thank you to our Community Partners
Brightview Great Falls
CA Technologies
CDW
Collaborative Solutions
Cooper’s Hawk Winery & Restaurant
E Group
Flint Hill School
Hewlett Packard
Hunters Woods at Trails Edge
Newton School
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Reston Community Center
Sony Corporation
South Lakes High School
Sunrise at RTC

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We truly appreciate all that our volunteers and community partners do for the Reston community!