



WINTER 2007 ♦ VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

## THE BIG PICTURE—PERSISTENCE PAYS!

*ALT has been busy with several long-term projects; despite delays and challenges, we doubled the number of permanently affordable housing properties and began our first affordable rental development. When complete, ALT will hold conservation easements protecting 515 acres, more than doubling the previous acreage of 211.*

### LANGDALE FIRST ACC FARM PROTECTED

Recently we partnered to protect 63 acres of important farmland near Winterville. The Langdale Farm easement purchase was made possible through a cooperative effort between the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the ACC SPLOST Greenspace Acquisition Program, the farm owner Mrs. George Langdale, and the Athens Land Trust. The purchase of the Langdale easement is the first allocation of SPLOST Greenspace Acquisition funds and is also the first use of FRPP funds for a farm in Athens-Clarke.

*continued on page 3*

### GRANT PROTECTS OCONEE FARM

On December 1, the very first Georgia Land Conservation Program (GLCP) grants were announced by Governor Sonny Perdue. The highest-ranking recipient was an application prepared jointly by ALT and the Oconee Partnership for Farmland Protection on behalf of Oconee County. The \$467,000 grant will be used to protect 190 acres of the Sam Mitchell Farm by means of a conservation easement to be held by ALT.

*continued on page 2*



### FOURTH STREET VILLAGE MOVES FORWARD

On January 10, ALT and Ambling Development Partners, our new partner, received financing from PNC Multifamily Capital, a division of Pittsburgh National Bank. Construction on the site had been halted since March 2006 when ALT's former partner had to withdraw from the project. Construction will resume in the next few weeks and should be completed by December 31, 2007.

*continued on page 4*

### WELLS FARGO GRANT AWARDED

In August 2006, Wells Fargo Foundation, on behalf of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage of Atlanta, donated \$10,000 for the rehabilitation of two historic houses for affordable homeownership. The mission of Wells Fargo Foundation is to provide resources to non-profit organizations to meet the homeownership need of low-to-moderate-income people. The grant will be used for the rehab work on 861 and 865 Waddell, dubbed

"Mustard" and "Ketchup" for their paint colors. Over the past year, ALT staff has been working with the State Historic Preservation Office to ensure that the work we do

enhances the historic character of the homes. We are also planning to do an environmentally friendly rehab including energy-efficient appliances, no-V.O.C. paints, and cellulose insulation. The funds from Wells Fargo will greatly help us in the rehabilitation of these homes. Thank you, Wells Fargo Foundation!



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Heather Benham

Lizzie Zucker Saltz

Nancy Stangle

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

Sutherland, Asbill &amp; Brennan

**STAFF E-MAILS**

housing@athenslandtrust.org

conservation@athenslandtrust.org

nancy@athenslandtrust.org

admin@athenslandtrust.org

**CONTACT INFO**

2109 W. Broad Street

Athens, GA 30606-3545

706.613.0122 / 613.0143 fax

www.athenslandtrust.org

**OUR MISSION**

The mission of the Athens Land Trust is to promote quality of life through integration of community and the natural environment by preserving land, creating energy-efficient and affordable housing, and revitalizing neighborhoods.

**BOARD & STAFF NEWS**

We are excited by the recent influx of new people and ideas to the ALT.

**OLD & NEW PRESIDENTS**

In February 2006, **Jonathan Biron** joined our Board and was voted in as Board President this June. We are delighted to have Jonathan at the helm, filling the void left by the departure of **Nanette Nelson** last winter to Wyoming. A goodbye party for Nanette, who served since August 2003, was held at Laurie Fowler & Tim Johnson's house. Nanette served as President with great energy and commitment and we truly appreciate the countless hours she dedicated to ALT.

Jonathan brings much relevant experience to the post of President. In "everyday life," he works part-time in private practice as a design architect and consultant. He also serves on the board of Athens Grow Green Coalition and on the Athens-Clarke County Planning Commission.

**NEW VICE PRESIDENT**

**Lara Mathes** also joined the ALT Board last February. She was voted in as Vice-President in July 2006. Lara is an urban planner for Athens-Clarke County. While a student in the University of Virginia's Master of Urban and Environmental Planning program, Lara worked with non-profit organizations in Charlottesville, Virginia on open space preservation, community development, and alternative transportation issues. Having returned to Athens three years ago, she has been involved in the review of ongoing development, long-range planning and, currently, neighborhood planning.

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

In September, **Alfie Vick** was elected to our board. Alfie is a licensed Landscape Architect and a LEED Accredited Professional. Alfie is a Vice President with Ecos Environmental Design and an Assistant Professor at UGA where he has been involved with courses in landscape ecology, sustainable landscape design and native plant communities. He is also the

co-author of a manual published by the Georgia Forestry Commission and Trees Atlanta titled *Greenspace: Evaluating, Restoring and Managing Natural Areas in the Atlanta Vicinity*.

**Angela Johnson** joined the board at our December 2006 board meeting. Angela and her husband Frankie purchased their home at 125 Stanelle from ALT last October. Frankie works at Power Partners and Angela is a manager of the Chick-Fil-A in Beechwood. They are the parents of two boys—SáKeem & Jeremiah, 10 and 8. (See story on page four and picture on page ten).

**FAREWELL SARAH**

We will miss **Sarah Gaines Barmeyer** whose tenure as Board member and Conservation Committee member was of great value to ALT. Sarah moved to Savannah in July 2006, with spouse Wilson, who was also a valued volunteer and supporter of ALT. Sarah will continue her work with the Georgia Wildlife Federation and the Georgia Water Coalition in Savannah.

**LAURA RETURNS TO ALT**

ALT is pleased to have **Laura Hall** returning to ALT as Conservation staff. Laura is a licensed Landscape Architect. She worked with ALT as a volunteer and staff member for several years before taking time off to stay at home with her young children.

**FARM GRANT** CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Earlier in the year, ALT was successful in its application for \$610,000 in grant funds from the USDA's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program. This amount will be combined with \$75,000 committed by Oconee County to total 75% of the conservation easement value; the remaining 25% will be a donation from Mr. Mitchell. The property is a cattle farm composed of a mixture of open pasture land and wooded areas located northeast of Farmington, in south Oconee County.

—John Kissane

Cover Photo Credits: Top: Mrs. Langdale speaks at October 26 dedication ceremony. Right: George Wright, Housing Committee member, works on IKEA cabinets at 130 Andrea Drive (photos by Heather Benham). Bottom Left: Mitchell Farm in Oconee County (photo by Mary Ann McQuinn of the NRCS).

**PLEASE DO A QUICK MEMBER LABEL CHECK**

If the date above your name label indicates that your membership has expired, please renew using the form on the back page.

## CONSERVATION NEWS



At the October 26<sup>th</sup> dedication of the Langdale Farm: From left to right: Jonathan Biron, Balfour Hunnicutt, Eugenia Langdale, ACC Mayor Heidi Davison & James Tillman, State Conservationist of NRCS were among the 85 attendees

Photo by Mary Ann McQuinn of the NRCS

### LANGDALE FARM CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

The Langdale property was determined to be a good candidate for protection because of the percentage of prime farmland and its key location in an area of farmland that is experiencing increasing development pressure. Furthermore, the farm's connection to Dr. George Langdale adds to its significance. Known as the "Father of Conservation Tillage," Dr. Langdale had a distinguished career as a soil scientist, including 25 years with the Southern Piedmont Conservation Research Center in Watkinsville. His work in intensive crop residue management to reduce soil erosion and limit chemical dependency was recognized world-wide. Dr. Langdale, who received his Ph.D. from UGA, died in December 2003.

According to Athens-Clarke County News & Notes from January 19, the Langdale Farm is *the first farmland in Athens-Clarke County to be permanently protected as agricultural land...Athens Land Trust serves as the primary agency regarding development and land use, with SPLOST acting in a supporting role. Conserving agricultural land provides several environmental benefits, such as maintaining wildlife habitats, assisting stormwater control, reducing air pollution, and lowering ambient air temperatures.*

With the NRCS providing 50% of the funding and Mrs. Langdale donating 25%, Athens-Clarke County's Greenspace Acquisition dollars were able to go a long way.

—John Kissane & Nancy Stangle

### NEW LANDOWNER TAX INCENTIVES

If you have considered preserving your property for future generations to enjoy, now's the time to do it! In 2006, both the U.S. and Georgia governments expanded the economic benefits for donors of conservation easements. A new law raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% to 50% of their adjusted gross income. It also extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take these tax deductions from 5 to 15 years. In addition, the new law allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income. Currently, these benefits are in effect until the end of 2007.

Here's a hypothetical example:

*Frank owns 75 acres in Oconee County that has appreciated in value a great deal. By donating a conservation easement during 2007, his total income tax savings could be as much as \$97,620, or \$8,135 annually over 12 years. Frank has an adjusted gross income of \$100,000 and wishes to protect his land, reserving two future house sites but otherwise prohibiting development on the property. An appraiser uses current zoning and development potential to determine the fair market value of the land with and without an easement. In this case, the original value of the land was \$900,000. With the conservation easement, the land will now be valued at \$300,000, and the value of the development rights he has given up is \$600,000, which is equal to his maximum tax deduction. Under the new rules, if Frank's income stays about the same he will be able to deduct \$50,000 annually until he has deducted the full value of the donated easement. This will reduce Frank's annual federal tax from \$13,890 to \$5,755 for a period of 12 years. (Consult your tax advisor to learn how the new law applies to you.)*

In addition, Georgia has a new state conservation tax credit program which provides a state tax credit to individuals and corporations donating land or easements for conservation. The tax credit allows taxpayers to claim a credit against their state income tax liability of 25 percent of the fair market value of the donated property interest, up to a maximum credit of \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for corporations. This tax credit applies in addition to federal tax benefits.

Not only can landowners who donate conservation easements benefit from the expanded tax incentives, but they may also be eligible for reduced property taxes and reduced estate taxes. There has never been a better time for landowners from all income levels to preserve their land.

## HOUSING UPDATE



*Mr. Upshaw Bentley, Jr. discusses the ground lease document with Angela and Frankie Johnson*

### NEW HOMEOWNERS

Congratulations to our new homeowners! After lease purchasing their home on Stanelle Avenue for a year, the **Johnson Family** was able to close on their house in October. The Johnsons worked with Bank of America to receive a great 30-year fixed loan with payments of less than \$600 a month.

We also want to congratulate **Jinkeng Asong** on his purchase of 239 Field Avenue. Mr. Asong also worked with Bank of America to receive his mortgage. Jinkeng works at the University of Georgia in the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center. Thank you to **Jeff Cheek** of **Bank of America** for working to give our clients great mortgages, **Hancock Community Development Corporation** for their housing counseling services. And a very special thank you to **Mr. Upshaw Bentley, Jr.**, for taking time out of

his busy schedule to meet with our clients to make sure they understand their ground lease agreement.  
—Heather Benham

### BANK OF AMERICA GRANT

The Bank of America Foundation donated \$5,000 to be used to assist ALT's clients in achieving homeownership. The local Bank of America office recommended ALT for the grant in June 2006. The purpose of the grant is to provide counseling and guidance for our applicants during the mortgage process. The Foundation's mission is "to provide meaningful change by making investments in neighborhoods for the future."

Thank you, Bank of America!

### FOURTH STREET *CONTINUED FROM PG. 1*

Fourth Street Village will provide 96 apartments for individuals and families making 50% or below the Area Median Income. Twenty-four market rate apartments will also be provided in the mixed-income development. Fourth Street Village is receiving Low Income Housing Tax Credits from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. ALT is pleased to be working with Ambling Development Partners, who currently have provided thousands of units of affordable housing throughout Georgia. The Athens Housing Authority is also serving as a partner and is providing technical and financial assistance.

—Nancy Stangle

*Funding made available for these affordable housing projects by Athens-Clarke County Department of Human & Economic Development (HED) HOME and CDBG Programs of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, an Equal Opportunity Employer.*



### WHAT EXACTLY IS A COMMUNITY LAND TRUST?

*The following is an excerpt from the newsletter of the Durham Community Land Trust of Durham, NC, which will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2007, making it one of the oldest in the country.*

The community land trust (CLT) concept was born in 1967 out of the civil rights movement to ensure that black family farmers in Albany, Georgia, had a secure place to live and farm to maintain their livelihood. The structures were owned outright, the land held in community trust. Now, almost 40 years later, the CLT movement has evolved from a loose handful of grassroots organizations to a formal CLT network consisting of over 150 organizations and 6,000 units of housing and growing rapidly.

A community land trust is a unique way of recycling affordable housing. When a homeowner purchases the house, they do just that: purchase the house and any improvements to the land. The lot is held 'in trust' by a local CLT [such as ALT], and the land is leased back for a nominal fee under a 99-year renewable lease. Homeowners may do whatever they like to the property: landscape, fence, build an outbuilding, or pass it to a relative.

This strategy does two things: (1) it takes the price of the land out of the price of the home making it more affordable and (2) ensures that when the homeowner wants to sell (under a shared equity formula), the CLT as the landowner can make sure the home goes to another family in need of affordable housing.

*Thanks to Durham Community Land Trust Executive Director Selina Mack for allowing us to reprint this article.*



## PARTNERS FOR A PROSPEROUS ATHENS

This community-wide anti-poverty initiative was formed in early 2006. It will soon present preliminary recommendations for alleviating Athens-Clarke County's severe level of poverty, and beyond that, for breaking the cycle of poverty itself. The Athens Land Trust has helped lead this effort from the start, with Housing Director Heather Benham and Board member Beth Gavrilles serving on the Partners for a Prosperous Athens (PPA) Steering Committee, and other staff, Board members, and general members serving on various subcommittees.

Each of the subcommittees—Building a Diverse Economy, Dependent Care, Educational Attainment, Housing & Transportation, Physical & Mental Health, and Workforce Development—worked throughout 2006 to define the issues that are keeping so many Athenians in poverty and develop recommendations to address them. Realizing that many of those whose input was crucially needed were not able to attend the monthly committee meetings, PPA volunteers held dozens of "Community Conversations" throughout Athens. Insights gained from these conversations were incorporated into each subcommittee's recommendations. The complete list of recommendations is posted on the PPA website, [www.prosperousathens.org](http://www.prosperousathens.org).

### NEXT STEPS

The PPA Steering Committee will hold a retreat in February to decide which recommendations to put forward as first steps. The prioritized recommendations will be presented at a community meeting to be held in the spring. It's not yet certain which recommendations will move to the head of the list—for example, some recommendations may be dependent upon others having been completed first; some may be possible to achieve right away while others will require more planning and funding than is currently available. Each, however, will require the commitment of the entire community to do things differently from now on. It's an exciting prospect, and Athens Land Trust is looking forward to being part of it.

—Beth Gavrilles

## NEW HOMES

In March we purchased four homes in East Athens on the corner of Nellie B Avenue and Andrea Drive. Two of the homes were boarded up and vacant and the other two were rentals for long-time residents of the area. The owner of the property hated to see the houses torn down for an expensive subdivision, so he called, and the rest is history. We completed a green and healthy rehabilitation of one house which includes bamboo floors, no-V.O.C. paints, low formaldehyde-content cabinets, compact florescent bulbs, energy star appliances, high efficiency furnace and air conditioning, Hardie siding, and blown cellulose insulation. ALT's housing committee volunteered long hours putting together



*Before & After: The kitchen of 130 Andrea before and after the volunteers installed the new IKEA cabinets and appliances*



IKEA cabinets. We were fortunate to have **Aubrey's Arbor** donate shrubs and trees, and **Alfie Vick** and **Lauren Zeichner's** landscape architecture class did a wonderful job installing the plants, picking up trash, and building a fence.

Through our partnership with the Athens Housing Authority, **215 Colima Avenue**, the historic home of the Callaway family will be preserved and updated to give a family an opportunity for homeownership. We look forward to meeting the family that will live in this wonderful home.

—Heather Benham



## PEOPLE OF HOPE UPDATE

People of Hope is proud to announce that construction of the 1st phase of the project will begin in the spring. PoH has signed a contract with a private developer to construct a lift station and a forced main sewer system. The sewer system will also serve a private housing development and Fowler Drive Elementary School. We expect construction of the sewer system to begin in the spring. In addition to the sewer system construction, PoH will begin construction of the community coordination center. The community coordination center will be located on the north-east corner of the property. Once completed, the building will be used as an office and meeting space for the PoH members to create the policies and procedures they will use to manage their community.

With a loan commitment, private grants and the continued support of the Athens community, People of Hope continues to close the financing gap. PoH has received a loan commitment from Raza Development Fund (RDF). RDF will provide PoH with over \$590,000 in financing and grants. RDF is a loan fund based out of Arizona and we expect to close on the loan in July. The Georgia Community Loan fund presented PoH a check for \$20,100 to be used for construction. These funds were granted through C.F.E.D.'s Innovations in Manufactured Housing program. The future residents of the PoH community have raised over \$34,000 through food sales, car washes, yard sales, special events and grant writing. Area churches and individuals have donated over \$77,000 for construction of the community. We are now supported by 15 area church communities and over 200 individuals.

While we continue to prepare for construction, our organization and community members continue to build their capacity. PoH has hired Gabriela Cárdenas (no relation to Oscar) to assist in the relocation of the families to the new community. She will work individually with families as they



From left to right, Latitia Franklin, Mack Champion, Marcos Martinez, Barbara Champion, Moises Casales, Sofia Martinez, & Alfredo Flores at the POH 2006 Annual Meeting

make preparations to move their existing home or buy a manufactured home. Her position is paid with funds from C.F.E.D.

PoH will also receive funding from the Association for the Study and Development of Communities. ASDC received over 200 applicants and granted only 3 awards. The grant was written in cooperation with the Georgia Community Loan Fund. The funds will be used to strengthen the relationship among diverse community members as they work through the process of creating their community rules, policies and procedures.

PoH members continue to receive training. Angela Combs has received training in our accounting software and is now our part-time bookkeeper. PoH staff has conducted training with board members and community members on the financing of the project. Through a small grant and donated computers from Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan, ten PoH families are learning to use computers.

Please visit our website [www.peopleofhope.us](http://www.peopleofhope.us) for updates on the project, a list of supporters and information on how you can help. —Oscar Cárdenas



Housing interns from left to right: Emily Stubbs & LaShawna Canty

### HOUSING INTERNS HELP ORGANIZE HOUSING EDUCATION CLASSES

We would like to thank our interns from UGA's College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Last semester, **LaShawna Canty** was instrumental in organizing our first homebuyer education class in partnership with **Cathi Watkins** of **East Athens Development Corporation** and the **Even Start** program. Thanks to **Subway** for donating munchies for this session.

This semester the work is being continued by **Emily Stubbs**. She has been hard at work interviewing housing clients, re-organizing our HUD files, and scheduling workshops.

We are grateful for the wonderful assistance of our housing interns.

## NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

### MRS. KELLEY'S STOCKING FILLED!

This past spring Barbara Jean Kelley's house on Waddell Street got quite a makeover. Through our work in the Henderson Extension neighborhood organizing the neighborhood watch, we met Mrs. Kelley and learned about her need for assistance.

We were able to work with **Hands on Athens** (HoA) to get her on the list for some repairs, and ALT helped Mrs. Kelley apply to the **Athens Banner Herald's Empty Stocking Fund** to address some of the critical issues that were beyond the scope of HoA. That grant, along with donations of parts from **Devore and Johnson**, donated electrical work by Chris Fowells of **C. Fowells Electric**, Quinton Phillips of **Zap Electric**, and Sean Westling of **Atomic Electric**, made it possible for us to rewire Mrs. Kelley's house to keep her heat on and safe.

Mrs. Kelley, like many others in Athens on a fixed income, often have difficulty with the upkeep of their houses, and when major repairs are needed they have very few places to turn.



Barbara Jean's daughter, Emma Foster, and son-in-law, Chris Foster, help out. Those are Grandson C.J. Foster's feet on the ladder!

### ROCKSPRINGS PARK

Over the past year, Heather Benham has been a part of the Rocksprings Park master planning process for the SPLOST program. She has worked with residents and community members in the Henderson Extension Neighborhood to ensure that their views are taken into account in the planning process for the park. At this time it appears that the park will be getting a new gym/community center with areas for senior activities, an indoor basketball gym and outdoor courts. The plans also include the addition of a community garden.

#### ADDITIONAL THANKS TO:

**Tucker Iron Works ~ Animals B Gone ~ Athens Exterminating ~ Southface Energy Institute**



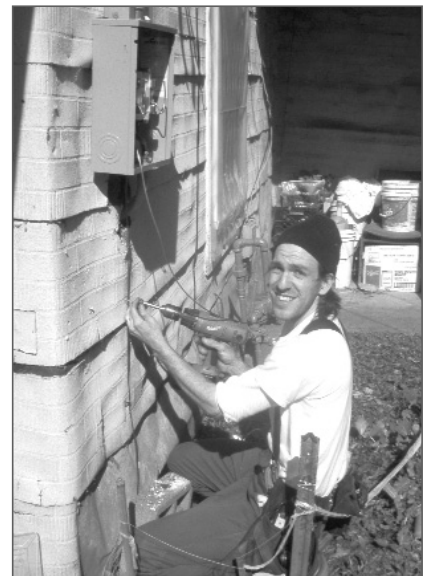
Students Andrea Cannegieter & Alicia Richards (from left to right) plant a tree at 130 Andrea Street, donated by Aubry's Arbor

### "JACKSONTOWN" DISTRICT

During the fall, ALT partnered with students from Wayde Brown's Cultural Assessment Class from the University of Georgia Historic Preservation Program to nominate for National Register District designation the neighborhood between Baxter and Broad Streets and from Rocksprings to Fuller Street.

Heather Benham arranged for the students to hear an oral history of the area from long-time residents Nina Smith and Bennie Tillman. Their stories of the development of the neighborhood were fascinating. After the Jackson farm was divided into lots, houses were built by the Jacksons and sold to African American laborers. Thereafter, the area was historically known as "Jacksontown." We hope that recognizing the historical significance of the neighborhood will lessen the chance of losing historic community assets.

An added benefit is that we will be able to apply for property tax freezes on some of the historic properties we rehabilitate. That way, the families that purchase our homes will have their property taxes set at the 'Before Rehab' value for 8 years.



—Heather Benham Chris of **C. Fowells Electric** helps Barbara Jean Kelley at 850 Waddell Street

## NETWORKING & DEVELOPMENT

### 2006 Annual Meeting

ALT held the 2006 Annual Meeting on December 3rd at the historic **Taylor-Grady House**. Board members were elected and the staff gave attendees an update on the activities and accomplishments of the past year. Approximately 80 people enjoyed the beautiful setting as well as live music, a raffle, and delicious refreshments from our generous donors. Prior to the meeting, ALT staff provided a tour of an easement property and a house that has recently been rehabilitated. Many thanks to the following businesses and individuals who made our Annual Meeting both fun and informative: **Marti's at Midday** for delicious brownies and cookies, **Cecilia Villaveces' Cakes** for a wonderful raspberry cake, **Buffalo's Southwest Café** for a donation of a gift certificate, **Zim's Bagel Bakery** for dozens of bagels, **Milledge Avenue Baptist Church** and our driver **Pastor Amy Shorner** for the use of their church bus for our tour, **Tim Bryant of WGAU** for featuring us on the radio to publicize the event, the **Junior League of Athens** for allowing us to use the **Taylor-Grady House**, and **Courtnie Wolfgang** and **Julie Dyles** of the *Folk You's* who provided the enjoyable live music.



Photo Credit: Philip Juras

### PUBLIC RELATIONS INTERNS

ALT has three University of Georgia Public Relations/Communications interns for Spring Semester. These interns will work alongside ALT employees to promote events, educate the community and increase the awareness of the goals and activities of ALT. They will be helping with the Spirit of the Land event (see page ten). Brittany Armstrong is a junior Advertising major, Noelle Albano is a senior PR/Spanish double major, and Abbey Vandewiele is a senior PR major. We are very pleased to have the assistance of these wonderful interns!

### LTA GRANT FUNDS STRATEGIC PLAN

Land Trust Alliance Southeast gave ALT a matching grant in the amount of \$4,000 for "Organizational Assessment

/Prioritization and Capacity Building." ALT applied for the grant to increase our effectiveness as a land conservation organization. The grant was funded in part by the Southeast Land Trust Matching Grants Program administered by the national Land Trust Alliance with the support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.



PR Interns from left to right: Abbey, Brittany & Noelle

With the funds, ALT hired Suzanne C. Berl of Asheville, NC, as a consultant to facilitate the process of assessing our organization and determining a course for the near future. Ms. Berl has been active in land conservation work for over 25 years and brought a great deal of experience to the process. From August to December 2006, ALT board and staff members worked together with Ms. Berl to clarify our goals and objectives and update our Five-Year Strategic Plan.

### CLT CONFERENCE IN BOULDER

Nancy Stangle and Heather Benham attended the National Community Land Trust Conference in Boulder, Colorado July 12-15. They attended sessions on funding, green building, and resales, among others.

The conference included a tour of the resident-owned Thistle Mobile Home Park in Boulder and the redeveloped Lowry Air Force base in Denver. The latter features 200 land trust homes that will be permanently affordable as part of the redevelopment. (Wouldn't this be a smart idea for Athens' Navy School!)

—Heather Benham & Nancy Stangle

## NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS & DONORS

*Thank you for your investment in our activities! We couldn't do it without you.*

### DONORS & PARTNERS

ACC Department of Human & Economic Development  
Athens Housing Authority  
Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Law Offices of M. Barton Rice  
Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, LLP  
Hill & Beasley, LLP  
Fortson, Bentley & Griffin, PA  
JBRS Architecture Design Planning  
UGA School of Forest Resources  
Graduate Student Association



*C.J. Foster.  
See his  
feet on  
page. 7*

Bank of America  
Amici's Restaurants  
Athens Exterminating

### FARMLAND PROTECTION

Hubert Harris Residual Trust

### FOREST

George & Ruth Koch  
Howard & Laura Roberts

### GROVE

Bertis & Katherine Downs  
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Kurt & Suzanne Reichle  
R.E.M.

### OAK

Patricia Barmeyer  
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O.C. & Manita Dean  
Powell & Wanda Gaines  
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David & Suzanne Lindsay  
Ray & Nancy MacNair  
Kathy Prescott & Grady Thrasher  
Neal & Pat Priest  
The Sams Group  
Murray & Dorris Tillman

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Rosemarie Goodrum  
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Valerie S. McIntyre  
Nancy Lindbloom  
Phil Novinger & Terry Perenich  
Lucy Rowland  
Amy Steele

### FAMILY

Emuel L. Aldridge  
Charles Apostolik  
Scott & Mabel Atkinson  
Rebecca Baggett & Elmer Clarke  
Milner & June Ball  
Rupert Barber  
Sarah & Wilson Barmeyer  
Gary & Joan Bertsch  
Kathleen Blane  
Kris Boudreau  
Lynn Bryant  
Julia Cox & Doug Dvoracek  
Tom Edwards & Nancy Hunter  
Jack & Sarah Frierson  
Kelly Girtz & Murray Cappelmann  
Beth Gavrilles & Philip Juras  
Charles Hawkins  
Rebecca Horne  
John P. Huie  
Katherine Hoyt

### PLANNED GIVING

Did you know you can make an investment in the future through a planned gift of stock, real estate, or financial support to ALT? *Please contact us today.*

Charlie Jameson  
Carl Jordan  
John & Amy Kissane  
Julie Knowlton  
Richard Martin  
Katha D. Massey  
Angela Meltzer  
Debbie & Stephen Mitchell  
Kristin Nielsen  
Norma Greer Ogden  
Dorothy & Walter O'Niell  
Maureen O'Brien & George Wright  
Al Pless  
Brenda Rashleigh  
Sigrid & Clate Sanders  
Rob & Carol Winthrop  
Dev & Gene Weeks  
Helen Wilkes  
Sandra Wyld & J. Wright

### INDIVIDUAL

Perrin Aycock  
Bill Baggs  
William Black  
Lynn Bryant  
Andrew Burke  
Toni Carlucci  
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Jeanine Collins & John Workman  
Marie DerVartanian  
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Sara Young

### ALT's Started a Listserv:

If you would like to receive occasional messages letting you know the latest news from ALT, please send an email message to:

ALT-Update-subscribe  
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~The Third Annual Wine & Art Benefit for Land Conservation~  
 Sunday, March 25 ~ Saturday, March 31, 2007

# Spirit of the Land

## BOTANICAL GARDEN AGAIN IN 2007

ALT and the Oconee River Land Trust (ORLT) will combine forces for the third year to present a wine and art benefit for land conservation. Proceeds from the event will benefit conservation efforts in Athens-Clarke and Oconee counties, as well as other parts of northeast Georgia.

This year Spirit of the Land will take place in the Terrace Garden Room at the Botanical Gardens. Following on last year's success, the land trusts will again host a curated exhibition and art sale, featuring artworks by many well-known local and regional artists whose visions heighten our appreciation of the land. This year's exhibit will be curated by René Shoemaker, and our signature artist will be Alan Campbell.

An opening reception for the art exhibit will be held on Sunday, March 25, from 1-4 p.m. in the Botanical Gardens Conservatory. As they were last year, all works will be on sale for the duration of the exhibit. However, unlike art auctions held by many local groups, sales from the *Spirit of the Land* art exhibit will be split with the artists. This will create a sustainable model to benefit land conservation for years to come, as well as ensuring a fairer deal for our creative community.

On Saturday, March 31, the celebration will culminate in a terrific event in the Botanical Gardens Terrace Garden Room from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. It will feature live music, hors d'oeuvres and tasting of high-quality wines selected by Gosford Wine, which reflect the 'spirit' of the land that produced them. The tasting will be followed by both an auction of fine wines, gift certificates from local restaurants and

businesses, local craft and gift items and other surprises. Tickets for the Saturday evening *Spirit of the Land* event will go on sale in late February.

Please call ORLT at 552-3138 or ALT at 613-0122 to reserve your spot, or for more information. We hope that you will mark your calendars for this evening of inspiring art and celebration to benefit our land conservation efforts.

## EVENT SCHEDULE:

### Art Exhibition Reception:

Sunday, March 25

1:00—4:00 p.m.

Botanical Gardens Conservatory

### Art Exhibit & Sale:

Sunday, March 25—

Saturday, March 31

### Spirit of the Land

Wine-Tasting,

Live Music, Auction &

Final Art

Exhibit Sales:

Saturday,

March 31,

7:00—10:00

p.m.,

Terrace

Garden

Room



Last year's SOTL snapshots, from top, clockwise, ALT homeowners Frankie & Angela Johnson, Paul Poninski looks over silent auction items, a 5 & 10 employee arranges the food, loyal volunteers Melissa Roberts & Clayton Wilcox

**SPIRIT OF THE LAND CONTRIBUTORS ~ MARCH 2006**

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**FLOWERS**  
Walter &  
Sandi  
Reeves  
Agnes  
Parker  
Beth Kelly  
Zorbanos  
Heidi Simmonds

**CURATOR**  
Chris Wyrick of  
Mercury Art Works

**ARTISTS**  
Margaret Agner  
Rinne Allen  
June Ball  
Toni Carlucci  
Nancy Carter  
Sally Coenen  
David Dwinell  
Flo Gross  
Stephen Humphreys  
Tracy Jefferies  
Philip Juras  
Bruce Knecht  
David Lindsay  
Mary Padgelek  
Dianne Penny

Mary Porter  
René Shoemaker  
Margie Spalding  
Mark Steinmetz  
Jim StipeMaas

**VOLUNTEERS**  
Sue Wilde · Toni Carlucci ·  
Dan Hope · Nancy Hunter ·  
Hester Meyer · Melissa  
Roberts · Donna Maddock ·  
Tonya Fix-Ketcham ·  
Cynthia East · Hans  
Neuhauser · Melissa  
Roberts · Clayton Wilcox ·  
Sandi Turner · Wilson  
Barmeyer

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**  
Barbara Dooley  
Julie Phillips



*At the exhibition, from left to right: Laura Hall, Marilyn Adams, Ann Davis, signature artist Tracy Jefferies & Kay Giese*

**SPIRIT OF THE LAND 2006**



*Tracy Jefferies, Early Spring, oil on canvas, 2005*

The second Spirit of the Land was a tremendous success, raising over \$20,000 for the land conservation work done by both the Athens Land Trust and the Oconee River Land Trust. More than 150 people attended the event on March 25 to celebrate the beauty and fruit of the land through beautiful and unique works of art as well as wonderful and unusual wines.

The success of the exhibition and art sale was due to curator Chris Wyrick of Mercury Gallery and the participation of our wonderful local artists. At the event, attendees enjoyed music by the Hyde, Lindberg, Patton Trio, wines from Gosford Wine, and hors d'oeuvres by Five & Ten.

Many thanks to all the artists and donors who made our second year a success! Please see the columns above for a complete list of these generous community members. Special thanks also to the Botanical Gardens for the beautiful venue and exhibit space.



# PLEASE JOIN THE ATHENS LAND TRUST

We welcome new supporters and thank all the individuals and organizations who have supported our work over the years. Your support is critical to our continuance. We greatly appreciate all donations of time and money.

If you would like to renew your membership or join us for the first time, please complete the following:

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**Would you like to join our listserv?**  Yes  No

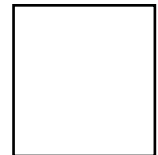
**Would you like to Volunteer?**  **Skills or Interests:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to the Athens Land Trust, Inc.*

*ALT is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax-deductible as provided by law.*

## YOU CAN JOIN OR DONATE ONLINE USING PAYPAL:

Go to [www.athenslandtrust.org](http://www.athenslandtrust.org) and click on the Join Us or Donate link.



2109 WEST BROAD STREET  
ATHENS, GEORGIA 30606-3545

TEL: 706.613.0122

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