

Caterpillar Event at Fourth Street



Volunteers from Caterpillar, UGA and Fourth Street residents work together to build a community garden

Thanks to employees from Caterpillar, the residents at Fourth Street Village apartments are enjoying fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers! Several employees from Caterpillar Inc. volunteered their time and brought equipment to build raised garden beds and walkways with materials and compost generously donated by Related Recycling and Supply. Over 50 volunteers and residents came together to build the community garden. Fourth Street Village is home to more than 289 people who benefit from affordable rental housing provided by Athens Land Trust (ALT) and our partners.

West Broad Market Garden

With the support of the Clarke County School District and the assistance of the UGA Department of Horticulture, Athens Clarke County Cooperative Extension, P.L.A.C.E. and Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, ALT broke ground in March of this year on the first and only community-based urban farm in Athens. The West Broad Market Gardeners have been operating a twice weekly produce stand since summer; and, this fall, the gardeners initiated a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. In the West Broad Market Garden CSA Sponsorship Program, shares were sold as "sponsorship shares;" the proceeds generated through the charitable contribution of shareholders have been used to support the grassroots Double Dollars program at the produce stand.

The produce stand at the West Broad Market Garden is open to the public, providing affordable Certified Naturally Grown Produce to garden neighbors and Athens residents. The produce stand's hours for the fall are Tuesdays 4:30 - 6:30 pm and Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm.



Athens Land Trust Receives Two New Grants

Athens Land Trust recently received a grant of \$89,527 from the USDA's Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) to establish a market at the West Broad School site. The grant will provide funding for the next two years to recruit and train vendors, conduct outreach to consumers, install cold storage equipment, and provide educational programs to promote healthy cooking and eating practices among neighborhood residents. ALT was one of eight Georgia organizations to receive a grant.

ALT also received a grant of \$40,000 from the Georgia office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to conduct outreach to underserved individuals, groups, and communities in the region. The goal of the grant is to increase awareness of and participation in the programs offered by NRCS to assist farmers. Part of USDA, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers with programs that protect farmland, grasslands and wetlands, as well as enhance wildlife and prevent soil erosion. During the coming year, ALT will reach out to farmers and hold educational workshops in the ten-county area surrounding Athens.

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Kate Munden-Dixon

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Bi-Monthly Meetings

Our Board meets on the third

Monday of every-other month at 6:30 PM in our office; the meetings are open to the public.

Find Us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/athenslandtrust

Board and Staff News

Please join ALT in extending a warm welcome to our newest Board member and staff. Board member **Brant Rackley** has lived in Athens for almost 20 years and currently lives in the Boulevard Historic District with his wife Melissa and their two children. Brant is a certified property inspector and licensed real estate agent, and has over a decade of experience in real estate and renovation projects.

Matt Bowers, ALT's Program Assistant, recently left ALT to pursue a legal career in northwest Georgia. Matt's many talents and great enthusiasm are greatly missed by the ALT staff.

Lindsay Daniel, a recent graduate of UGA's College of Family and Consumer Sciences, is ALT's new Homeownership Coordinator. Lindsay will put her passion for helping others to good use while assisting people in achieving their dream of owning their first home.

Shyeasta Cullars, ALT's new part-time Farmer Outreach Specialist, is the owner of the Cullars Heritage Farm in Wilkes County. After receiving her degree from Kansas State University, she relocated to the Athens area two years ago.

Christina Hylton is working as the part-time Education Coordinator for the West Broad Farmers Market. She has a Master's degree in Education and has many years experience in community development and facilitating sustainable environmental practices in communities.

Kate Munden-Dixon is a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Assistant at UGA and Farmer Network Organizer for the Certified Naturally Grown Program. She will bring this experience to her position as the part-time Manager of the West Broad Farmers Market.

Mary O'Toole, ALT's Housing Counselor, has worked as a social worker for many years before turning to housing counseling in 2006. Mary is a certified housing counselor through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and has been providing homebuyer education workshops for ALT for the past three years.

Lynda Stipe, Design Coordinator, has been a part of the local design/build industry for 19 years. While completing her degree in interior design, Lynda interned with ALT and has been overseeing design and construction of ALT's homes as a consultant since 2010.

Lauren Stubbs is ALT's part time Outreach Coordinator. Lauren earned her Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from UGA. She has many years experience in the private sector and is a founding partner of MedicineWheel LLC, a Master Planning, Urban Design & Landscape Architecture design studio.

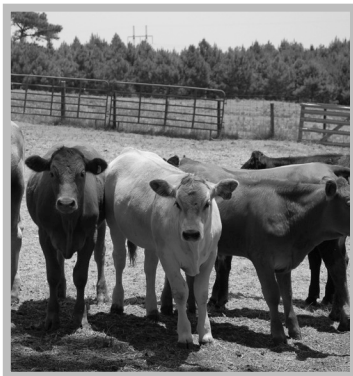
ALT is pleased to have several UGA interns this semester who are donating their time and expertise to ALT. **Anna Ladson**, a junior in Graphic Design, has been creating handouts and brochures for ALT. **Alan Poole**, a third-year law student, and **Andrew Nelson**, a second-year law student, have been focusing on research and legal drafting projects.

Doug Cushner, a junior majoring in finance, has assisted ALT's staff with a variety of tasks. During the summer horticulture major **Kristin Stogner** worked many hours in community gardens.



ALT staff from left to right are first row: Lauren, Christina, Mary; second row: Stephanie, Laura, Fenwick; third row: Dyan, Heather, Lindsay; and back row: Nancy, Dana, Shyeasta, Nathan. Not pictured are Lynda and Kate.

Land Conservation



The Pastures at Rose Creek

Farmer Will Powers has been hard at work raising organic produce and grass-fed beef on his family farm in Oconee County. Will is selling his produce and beef at the Oconee Farmers Market under the name The Pastures of Rose Creek. Will and his family have protected their fourth-generation family farm by placing conservation easements on the land in 2004 and 2011.

Conservation Projects Underway

ALT's Conservation Program is excited to be working with several landowners to protect more than 8,000 acres of beautiful land throughout the state. Once these conservation easements are completed we will look forward to showing photographs of these diverse properties and introducing these generous landowners.

Land Trust Alliance Rally

In September, ALT Board member Gregg Bayard joined more than 1,600 conservation leaders from around the US and the world at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Salt Lake City, UT. The rally provides information on best practices for land trusts and opportunities to network with others who are committed to protecting land in their communities. ALT's work in affordable housing and urban agriculture were featured in a large poster produced by the Land Trust Alliance.

ALT Numbers at a Glance

Land Conservation

2,858 acres permanently protected by ALT conservation easements in 10 counties, including:
961 acres of working family farmland
1,897 acres of forest, wetlands, and neighborhood open space

Community Gardens

15 community gardens, 21 school gardens, 1 market garden
850 pounds harvested by 65 community gardeners
767 pounds of produce harvested at Athens Community Council on Aging
2900 pounds harvested at West Broad market Garden
6,524 volunteer hours

The Value of Five Acre Woods

Five Acre Woods, a rare tract of urban forest owned by Athens-Clarke County and protected under a conservation easement held by ALT, provides many important values to the surrounding neighborhood and to the County as a whole. Utilizing the same methods which were used in a study conducted by UGA's School of Forest Resources on the value of forestland in Georgia, ALT calculates that Five Acre Woods provides \$12,410 per year in ecological and aesthetic value. The area is an important habitat for birds and native plants, helps improve air and water quality, increases pollination, and also serves as a gathering place for those in the neighborhood. Last year ALT received a Georgia Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the Georgia Forestry Commission to study and improve Five Acre Woods. Partners in the grant were UGA's Department of Horticulture and College of Environment and Design, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, the Community Tree Council, and the Athens-Clarke County Community Forester. Last year students from Professor David Berle's Horticulture class conducted a tree inventory on the site. Professor Berle's class and Professor Alfie Vick's Landscape Design class have done work on site removing dead trees, clearing invasive species and planting donated native plants from the State Botanical Garden. The grant provided funding for a consultant to develop a tree management plan for the site that outlined what is needed to manage this urban forest for maximum health, ecosystem services, sustainability and public benefit.

ALT is one of 181 land trusts in the US that is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.



Affordable Housing

New Construction at Old Winterville & Cannontown

Two new EarthCraft homes are under construction on Old Winterville Road and are going up quickly. The homes were designed by Chris Evans of E+ E Architecture and are being built by contractor Chessser-Kennedy. Both homes are being built to universal design specifications, which seek to attain functionality and accessibility for people of all abilities and to accommodate the owner through all stages of life.



Two EarthCraft Homes under construction on Old Winterville Road

Another three houses will soon be underway at Cottages at Cannontown. Contractor Chessser-Kennedy was selected to build the three winning designs from the competition for local designers held earlier this year. One home is accessible for persons with disabilities and utilizes passive solar design.

Homebuyer Education

ALT conducted four Homebuyer Education Workshops in the last six months, during May, July, August and October. Thirty-three households received 72 services, including homebuyer education, financial literacy and credit classes plus individual counseling sessions, all handled by housing counselor Mary O'Toole. The Homebuyer Education Workshops rely on professionals involved in the home purchasing process to share their expertise. We want to thank real estate agents Shavon Echols (Coldwell Banker/Upchurch Realty) and Heather McElroy (Prudential Blanton Realty); mortgage loan officers Billy Leopold (Wells Fargo), Jeff Bishop (Athens First Bank & Trust), and Lauren Fleming and Benjamin Hansford (BB&T); energy conservationists Luis Imery and Jeremy Field; and closing attorneys Alec Hodson and Sarah Morang (Quarterman & Hodson) plus Cici Mercer (Timmons, Warnes & Associates). We appreciate their time and commitment to assist our clientele.



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

National CLT Conference

In September, ALT Director of Operations Heather Benham attended the National Community Land Trust conference in Burlington, VT. Representatives of more than 200 land trusts from across the US and the world attended the conference, which included a tour of affordable housing and land conservation projects sponsored by Vermont's Housing and Conservation Board. Heather was also a presenter in a workshop on urban agriculture.

ALT Numbers at a Glance

Affordable Housing

352 individuals in affordable housing
149 permanently affordable housing properties

Homeownership Program

53 single family properties (homes and lots)
59 residents currently ALT homeowners
14 residents lease purchasing homes

Housing Counseling/Class

33 households since the last newsletter

Fourth Street Village Apartments

289 low-income residents
96 affordable units, 24 market-rate units



Fourth Street residents enjoy tasty, fresh & nutritious produce

Fresh Produce at Fourth Street

Beginning in the summer, UGArdens, a garden that is part of the UGA Department of Horticulture, has provided fresh, nutritious produce to Fourth Street Village residents! UGA students harvest the vegetables and deliver them to residents of ALT's multi-family rental community, where the residents are able to buy the tasty produce at very affordable prices. It is a goal of ALT's to provide community gardens and open space in the neighborhoods where ALT has built affordable housing, such as the gardens at West Broad and at Fourth Street Village.

Community Gardens

West Broad Street Market Garden Celebration!

On June 28th, the Community Garden Network partners and the hard-working gardeners put down their shovels and gathered in celebration of the first-ever harvest at the West Broad Market Garden. The blessing was provided by Athens-Clarke County Commissioner Reverend George Maxwell, and several wonderful speakers were on hand, including Mayor Nancy Denson; former Commissioner of Labor for Georgia Michael Thurmond; Clarke County School District Superintendent Dr. Phil Lanoue; and the director of Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture in Atlanta, Rashid Nuri. There was also a great turnout from the community in spite of the afternoon heat! Attendees watched cooking demonstrations by the Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education Program and P.L.A.C.E., enjoyed farm-fresh grilled veggies, and sampled several tasty dishes complements of Earth Fare, the Daily Groceries Co-Op, and volunteer, Donna Shannon. Thanks also to Cooperative Extension for providing seeds and Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful for providing recycling bins and water.



Visit to the Truly Living Well Center

During August ALT staff members, community gardeners, partners, and other members of the community visited the Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture in Atlanta. Founded by Rashid Nuri, the Center focuses on using natural and sustainable production methods, making food a central focus of family and community life, and creating an infrastructure that encourages local food production and distribution.



The Math Garden at Whit Davis Elementary

School Garden News

Twenty-one schools in Clarke County have gardens on their campuses, and during the past school year fifty classes participated in more than 1000 garden-based lessons. Whit Davis Elementary has a beautiful new Math Garden built by Eric Ahlstedt's Leadership Group in partnership with teacher Leslie Johnson. The math garden was made possible by donations from the ACC Landfill, the UGA Materials Reuse Program, and Home Depot. During October, Chase Street Elementary PTO hosted a Delta Phi Omega "Be the Change" workday and was able to do maintenance work on the school's veggie and butterfly gardens. Stacy Smith of Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful organizes "Down and Dirty" groups that provide support for numerous school gardens.

To learn more about the School Garden Committee of the Community Garden Network, check out <http://tinyurl.com/ACC-school-garden-network!>

Pinewood Junior Master Gardeners

About twenty youth in the Pinewoods Mobile Home Park have become Junior Master Gardeners with assistance from Athens Clarke County Cooperative Extension; Aida Quinones and Beak May of the Pinewood Branch Library; Master Gardener volunteers Helen Kuykendall, Brendan Nordgren, and Patty Hopaluk-Gay; ALT intern Kristen Stogner; and Anna Stangle. The young gardeners, who named themselves the Pinewood Green Rangers, undertook a complete redesign of the Pinewoods Community Garden and "shovel by shovel" transformed the space, including the planting of edibles from lettuce to pumpkins, birdhouse gourds, herbs and flowers. Athens Land Trust is especially proud of all the great work these wonderful young people have done!

Michael Twitty Visits West Broad

Michael Twitty, a Washington, D.C.-based historian studying the culinary traditions of American slaves, toured the West Broad Market Garden, located on the site of the old West Broad Elementary School where Principal Samuel Harris operated an agricultural self-help program in 1904. Twitty, who stopped at the West Broad Market Garden as part of his Southern Discomfort tour, said that many of the crops grown at West Broad, including okra, sweet potatoes and watermelon, would have been a "living pantry" for African Americans historically. Through his tour, blog and upcoming book, Twitty hopes to draw attention to the contribution of Blacks to the culinary history of the U.S. and to pass along to future generations the rich storehouse of knowledge they once possessed.



5th Annual Harvest Moon Dinner

The fifth annual Harvest Moon Dinner to benefit the Athens Land Trust was held on October 26th. The event was created as an intimate dinner among friends celebrating the landscapes of our community with great food and wine. This year Chef Damien Schaefer, a creator of The FourCoursemen and Public Domain Dinners, collaborated with Five and Ten's Dean Neff and Matt Downes on site at Woodland Gardens organic farm in Winterville to create a true farm-to-table dining experience. Once again guests enjoyed delicious food and wine in a beautiful setting. Many thanks to the chefs, our sponsors, our host Woodland Gardens, attendees, volunteers and especially Lara Mathes and Tony Eubanks, the event organizers.



Thank You to the Harvest Moon Supporters!

Trent & Rhonda Allen	Rick & Mary Lehner
Gregg Bayard & Maggie Kiley	Jennifer Lytle
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Thank You to the Harvest Moon Sponsors!



UGA Campaign for Charities

The Athens Land Trust is participating in the 2012 Campaign for Charities through Georgia Shares. For more information on how you can help support Athens Land Trust through this campaign please visit: www.busfin.uga.edu/charities/captain_index.html. Our Georgia Shares number is 194072. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to ALT with every pay-check. We hope you will continue to support our efforts!

Spirit of the Land 2012

Athens Land Trust and the Oconee River Land Trust partnered with the State Botanical Garden and the Georgia Museum of Art to present the 2012 Spirit of the Land Art Exhibit and Sale. On August 7th, about 50 people attended the opening reception and a gallery talk on American landscape painters presented by the exhibit's curator, Dr. Paul A. Manoguerra of the Georgia Museum of Art. The exhibit, "Small Scale Images of the Georgia Landscape," featured works by artists Margaret Agner, Matt Alston, June Ball, Elizabeth Barton, Toni Carlucci, Sally Coenen, Larry Forte, Philip Juras, Dianne Penny, Mary Porter, and René D. Shoemaker. The artwork was on display at the Botanical Garden Visitors Center from August 5 through September 9. The artists who sold artwork received half of the profit, with the other half going to the land trusts and the State Botanical Garden. Many thanks to curator Paul Manoguerra, the artists, and the staff of the Botanical Garden for the beautiful exhibit of artwork inspired by our state's natural wonders and landscapes.



Master Gardener Helen Kuykendall volunteers at Pinewood
(see story on page 5)

Benevolence Market: December 2nd

Tired of buying sweaters for uncles who will never wear them? Do you need something to bring a sparkle to your sister's eye? Then please join us for the annual Benevolence Market, which will be held this year at First Baptist Church in downtown Athens on Sunday afternoon, December 2, 2012, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM. The Benevolence Market offers an alternative holiday-giving experience where shoppers buy symbolic gifts. No sweaters here, but you can purchase a packet of vegetable seeds for a family, or donate toward the construction of an affordable home. ALT will join nearly 40 other non-profits in providing excellent holiday gifts for you to give that help make Athens a healthier and more welcoming place.

Thank You to Our Partners & Donors since May 2012!

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Athens Housing Authority
Clarke County School District
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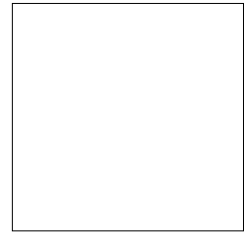
Mark & Linda Dodson
Matthew Epperson
Rosemary Franklin
Erika Lewis

Patricia McAlexander
Nelda Parker
Tom Rodgers
Rich Rusk
Thanks to the Writers' Group
participants

In honor of Adele Patrick:
Elena Brown & Jared Harper
Maria Camila Pardo

In honor of John Kominoski & Gary
Person:
Beth Gavrilles & Philip Juras

A special thanks to Candle Brumby
for the donation of paintings by her
late sister Marianne.



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www.athenslandtrust.org

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