Thank You for Supporting the Young Urban Farmers Program!

We are so grateful for the support that has made it possible to welcome the fifth year of Young Urban Farmers (YUF). This semester’s cohort brings the total number of Clarke County School District (CCSD) students who have participated to just over 100! The program provides students with sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship education, work experience, and personal development. This year, ALT reached out to the community to raise the funds necessary to continue offering paid employment to the students, and we were overwhelmed by the response! Our YUF GoFundMe campaign has raised over $16,000 in a few short months. These donations will provide immediate resources for the 2016-2017 term, supporting opportunities for education, skill-building and personal development that will shape these young entrepreneurs into future community leaders! Since every 1% increase in the entrepreneurship rate corresponds to a 2% decrease in the poverty rate, the skills taught in the YUF program can have a lasting impact on the economic health of the community. Thank you to all who have donated to make this possible!

In addition to our partnership with the CCSD and the generous support from ALT members and donors, we are excited about our growing partnership with the Oconee River Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) which has provided new funds and opportunities to the YUF program. In July, ALT received the Urban Agriculture Initiative from the National Association of Conservation Districts. Thanks to Robert Amos, Fred Smith and Ray Rozier of the Oconee River SWCD for nominating ALT to apply for the grant, which will provide a year of YUF funding as we develop long-term support. The SWCD also awarded scholarships to four YUF to attend a four-day Natural Resources Conservation Workshop in June at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia. YUF attendee Dontae Meadows said, “It was great to take the agricultural classes and then apply the knowledge in the field!”

Creature Comforts 2016 Get Comfortable Campaign

When Creature Comforts opened in 2014, they knew they wanted to create more than just a business; they wanted to give back. Community is at the heart of the work we do at ALT, and we’re proud to partner with Creature Comforts in working to make Athens a better place for all of its residents. We are grateful to have participated in Creature Comforts’ second Get Comfortable campaign, whose mission is to end poverty, hunger, and homelessness in our community. Get Comfortable worked with five local nonprofits to raise visibility and proceeds for their work. ALT was the featured charity in January, and our staff engaged brewery patrons in activities to support the West Broad Garden and Farmers Market. The campaign wrapped up in May with over $65,000 raised for local nonprofits. ALT staff attended the end of season celebration on June 8th at the brewery and raised a glass to the campaign’s success. ALT is tremendously grateful to Creature Comforts and its patrons for their support!
Board of Directors
President, Lara Mathes
Vice President, Kirrena Gallagher
Treasurer, Nancy Stangle
Secretary, Dan Lorentz
Darren Ash
Gloria Bizzle
Jared Bybee
Willa Fambrough
Beth Gawrilles
Jared Harper
Charley Hill
Rosetta Kelly
Ed Taylor
Donna Thurman

Our Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 5:30 PM in the ALT office; meetings are open to the public.

Staff
Executive Director, Heather Benham
Director of Operations, Lorinda Crane
Conservation Director, Kristzian Varsa
Conservation Coordinator, Dyan Holt
Farmer Outreach Coordinator, Christina Hylton
Farmland Protection Specialist, Deb Sheppard
Housing Director, David Ogunsanya
Housing Coordinator & VISTA Supervisor, Kelsey Thompson
Housing Counselor, Angel McCoy
VISTA Housing Assistant, Kamilah Roberts
Development and Outreach Coordinator, Erin O’Brien
VISTA Development Assistant, Amanda Innes
VISTA Outreach Assistant, Jessica Brooks
VISTA PR Coordinator, Jen Reid
Community Agriculture Program Director, Stephanie Simmons
FoodCorps Service Members, Bexx Merck & Kana Miller
Young Urban Farmer Program Coordinator, Seth Nivens
West Broad Market Garden Manager, Rebecca Ennis
Interim Williams Farm Manager, Emily Cabrera
VISTA Volunteer Coordinator, Dave Chamberlin
Project Oversight, George Wright

685 North Pope Street
Athens, Georgia 30601-2331
706.613.0122 • 706.613.0143 fax
www.athenslandtrust.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @athenslandtrust

Athens Land Trust is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to conserve, empower and sustain communities through responsible and visionary land use.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

West Broad Farmers Market
Saturdays through December 10
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

October 29 - Fall Festival
November 5 - Athens Heritage & Urban Agriculture Festival
November 26 - Closed for Thanksgiving
December 10 - Holiday Craft Festival

St. Mary’s Produce Stand
Wednesdays through Mid-November
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
St. Mary’s Atrium

Homebuyer Education & Credit Seminars
October 22 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
November 19 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
December 17 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ALT’s 22nd Annual Celebration!
Thursday, October 6
5:30-7:30 PM
Williams Farm
235 Northside Drive, Athens

Join us for happy hour in the garden! Tour the farm, celebrate the many accomplishments of the past year and look ahead to ALT’s future! Refreshments will be served at this free event.

Volunteer with us!
For more information, please contact Dave Chamberlin at dave@athenslandtrust.org

2016 Cultivating Community Dinner

Since the West Broad Farmers Market first opened in May 2013, we’ve matched over $5,500 spent on fresh produce for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) customers through our Double Dollars program. In partnership with Wholesome Wave Georgia, this program matches each dollar spent by SNAP recipients, ensuring that fresh, local produce is accessible for the entire community. In addition to increasing healthy food access, the Double Dollars program is contributing to the local food economy, as each nutrition benefit dollar spent becomes two dollars for local farmers. The second annual Cultivating Community Dinner at the National was held on Sunday, April 10th to raise local Double Dollars funds. This year, five students from our Young Urban Farmers program helped prep, cook, and serve the dishes that were included in the five-course meal. A special thank you goes to Chef Peter Dale, Manny Stone, and the staff of The National for working with the YUF in preparing the meal. Thanks, as well, to all who attended!

Above, Chef Peter Dale of The National, Malyzia Richardson, Coles Ehlers, Safwan Bhuiyan, Manny Stone, Ty’rese Jeffries, and Willie Craddick, Jr.
ALT Receives Kresge Foundation Grant for the West Broad Neighborhood

ALT is thrilled to have been selected in June as one of 26 recipients nationwide of a Fresh, Local, & Equitable grant from The Kresge Foundation. Dubbed FreshLo, this program provides grants to organizations and communities to develop food-oriented initiatives that will strengthen economic vitality, cultural expression and health in underserved neighborhoods. ALT will use this planning grant and the national network of support behind it to build on the collective impact partnership that is developing a comprehensive revitalization plan for the West Broad neighborhood. This partnership includes community members, the Clarke County School District, the Athens Housing Authority, and the Athens-Clarke County government. The group is working with Purpose Built Communities, a consulting group that partners with local leaders to bring a holistic neighborhood revitalization model that includes high quality housing, education, and community wellness resources to neighborhoods in need.

In 2013, ALT directed a community master plan for the neighborhood in which residents expressed a desire to see the West Broad School repurposed in a meaningful way. This led in part to the creation of the West Broad Garden and Farmers Market on the site, and ALT has continued to work with neighborhood residents to ensure that the community has a voice in the master planning process. In June, community stakeholders selected a consulting group, Lord, Aeck and Sargent, to conduct a feasibility study to determine if the West Broad neighborhood is a good fit for the Purpose Built model. In August, ALT Executive Director Heather Benham and ALT Board Member and West Broad Market vendor Willa Fambrough traveled to Cleveland, Ohio for the FreshLo convening, a four-day gathering of grantees and Kresge Foundation representatives. Ms. Fambrough appreciated “the opportunity to meet people from across the country doing similar work in their community...” and is enthusiastic about the possibilities that the FreshLo program brings, observing, “...the grant will help us to outreach...and to show people how they can get involved and have a say in what is going on in their neighborhood...and preserve their local culture for younger generations.” A neighborhood open house was held on September 15th at the H.T. Edwards Building to gather community input for the feasibility study. Thanks to our FreshLo partnership with The Kresge Foundation, ALT will be able to continue to work with community members to ensure that their needs and vision guide future development in this historic neighborhood.
ALT celebrated the completion of three new three-bedroom, two-bathroom EarthCraft homes in the Cottages at Cannontown with a block party and open house on August 19th. The public toured the finished homes and enjoyed refreshments and a live music broadcast from WXAG, The Light. These homes bring a total of nine to the development, which will ultimately have fifteen new, permanently affordable homes providing in-town homeownership opportunities to eligible families. EarthCraft homes are sustainably built and energy efficient, resulting in lower utility costs and healthier environments for residents. ALT is already working with an individual who will lease purchase one of the new homes while she prepares for the homebuying process. Thanks to the Athens-Clarke County Mayor and Commission and the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department for helping ALT build stronger neighborhoods and empower residents through homeownership!

Thanks to our Partners who Support the Affordable Housing Program

Thank you to Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and Athens-Clarke County for their recent support of ALT’s Affordable Housing Program! We received $2,000 from Bank of America and $4,000 from Wells Fargo for monthly homebuyer education classes and housing counseling services. We also received $30,000 from Athens-Clarke County’s Community Development Block Grant for Housing Counseling. These donations enable ALT to provide these classes and services free of charge, serving more than 170 households so far this year. Thanks to our local partners who lent their expertise to our classes: Ethan Atkinson (Athens Real Estate Group), Anne Carter and Paul Lancaster (Law Office of Anne D. Carter, LLC), Stella Collins (Coldwell Banker), Chris Conway (Georgia United Credit Union), Shavon Echols and Shaleka Cox (Greater Athens Properties), Charlie Fleming (First American Bank & Trust), Alec Hodson (Quarterman & Hodson, PC), Zack Johnson (Northwestern Mutual), John Laster (Laster Law Firm), Mike Leggett (The Brick Kicker), Mike Paulk (Brand Mortgage), Michelle Pearson (Edward Jones), Vicky Samuel (Element Funding), Nicole Shillings (Home Team of Athens), Michael Thomas (Modom Financial Solutions/UGA Aspire), Holly Win (Wells Fargo), Joe Wyrick (Robins Financial Credit Union), the Athens-Clarke County Code Enforcement, Fire Department, and Recycling Division and UGA Cooperative Extension.

Funding made available for these affordable housing projects by Athens-Clarke County Department of Housing and Community Development HOME and CDBG Programs of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Kamilah Roberts grew up in Athens and graduated from Cedar Shoals High School. As an advertising major at UGA, Kamilah came to realize how powerful the medium can be. “The message you put out has an effect, and in advertising, it’s not always positive.” Kamilah decided that she wanted to devote her skills and energy to nonprofit work. When her mother, Jackie, who became an ALT homeowner in 2010, heard about an Americorps VISTA position in ALT’s Affordable Housing Program, she encouraged Kamilah to apply. AmeriCorps VISTAs are tasked with building the capacity of nonprofits working to end poverty, especially through outreach. As a VISTA Housing Assistant, Kamilah will promote ALT’s Housing Program and services, helping others in the community realize the opportunity to become first-time homeowners like her mother. Kamilah is proud that her year of service will be making a difference in her home town: “It takes people to make a difference. To have a positive effect on the community we are all a part of.”

Meet ALT’s Housing Program VISTA!

Saliou Barry knows a thing or two about developing innovative solutions to complex problems. In his native Guinea, Africa, the palm is the most abundant vegetation, providing the livelihood of many people in the region. Harvesting is largely done manually, resulting in low yield and substantial waste. Saliou launched Coguiapres, a social enterprise that has developed a more sustainable process for palm oil production that is also increasing employment opportunities and health outcomes for villagers. His innovative process allows farmers to extract larger quantities of oil from palm nuts, significantly increasing their income. In addition, the shells, previously discarded, are collected and utilized for cooking fuel, reducing the impact on local forests. Byproducts from the process can be transformed into soap, a product desperately needed in Guinea to improve hygiene and prevent infection, especially after the Ebola crisis of 2014 prompted a public handwashing campaign that was difficult to implement without ready access to affordable soap. This fall, Saliou has brought his commitment to improving the lives of others to ALT. The Community Solutions Program, operated in partnership with the nonprofit IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board) and the U.S. State Department, pairs global community leaders with U.S. nonprofits for four-month fellowships. Saliou will work to bring increased USDA certifications and levels of compliance to ALT’s Williams Farm and area farms, which will increase sales opportunities for the small farmers ALT works with. We are excited to work with someone as passionate as Saliou as he helps strengthen our local food system and brings new skills and strategies back to his own community.

ALT recently worked with ACC planning staff and Peninger Consulting to complete an Inclusionary Housing Feasibility Analysis for Athens-Clarke County. The study, made possible by a grant from Grounded Solutions Network (formerly National Community Land Trust Network) explored the potential for the adoption of an inclusionary zoning (IZ) ordinance to increase the supply of affordable housing for low- to moderate-income individuals and families by requiring that a portion of units or funds be set aside for affordable units. After meeting with developers and analyzing the economics, the study showed that IZ is a feasible tool for our community to address the affordable housing shortfall.
The fourth West Broad Farmers Market season opened on Saturday, April 30th. The neighborhood block party brought more than 500 attendees to the grounds of the West Broad School to enjoy a dazzling array of vendors, live music, step performances, horseback rides and more. This summer has seen the first annual WBFM Fish Fry, and the second annual Juneteenth celebration, which is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery. The Juneteenth event featured live music, storytelling, horseback riding, and West African drum and dance performances. The summer wrapped up with the Back to School Block Party and school supply drive in August. Strong, Beautiful, & Godly Girls, a mentoring organization for young women, brings this event to the WBFM to help underserved families prepare for the new school year. This year featured a bike raffle from BikeAthens, aerial fun with Canopy Studio, face painting, music, and so much more (see page 11 for a complete list of sponsors, performers, and partners). This season has also brought the Fresh Food Bus to WBFM, providing free transportation every Saturday with the support of Wholesome Wave Georgia, the Athens Farmers Market, Sustainable UGA and the Athens Community Council on Aging. The market has seen a burgeoning of community support this season, as annual attendance is up more than 25%, and we continue to grow this neighborhood-based economy with every market. So far this season, the total dollars spent at the market is up nearly 30% over all of 2015! We’ve also welcomed more than 24 new vendors, who are growing their businesses with vendor development and microenterprise coaching from ALT. We’re looking forward to some great events this fall, including the Fall Festival on October 29th, the Athens Heritage and Urban Agriculture Festival on November 5th, and the Holiday Craft Market to wrap up the season on December 10th. Mark your calendars for these special dates, and thank you for supporting this community-driven, education-oriented farmers market!

**VENDOR SPOTLIGHT**

Sisters Madeline and Margie grew up in Wisconsin and Minnesota making pies and jams from the fresh fruit they picked. They started Hankie Pie to showcase their love of the simple, perfect dessert that is pie. Says Madeline, “We found out about the West Broad Farmers Market before we moved to Athens in January. We loved how the market emphasized helping new businesses get started and the importance of neighborhood and community. We love coming to the market every Saturday because it’s such a fun time. It’s like a big family. We’ve gotten to know other vendors, volunteers and the regulars.” Find Hankie Pie every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the market and online at www.hankiepie.com
On Saturday, April 23rd, the Al Pless Memorial Bike Ride was held to celebrate Al Pless, a passionate cyclist, lover of life, devoted ALT Board member and steward of the earth. Supporters rode 60, 38, or 18 beautiful miles through Clarke and Oglethorpe Counties. Cyclists enjoyed a post-ride Barbentos feast at Jittery Joe’s Roaster. Thanks to Ken Sherman for planning this year’s ride, to the Foundation for Excellence in Public Education in Clarke County for providing the meal, and to all of the riders for participating!
It was a busy summer at ALT’s two urban farms as dozens of young campers visited to work, learn, and play. ALT collaborated with the University of Georgia, the Clarke County School District and 10 other nonprofit organizations to host Camp DIVE, a four-week summer camp for 95 underserved K-8 students that included garden learning at the West Broad Garden. In July, ALT hosted an eight-day Rooting for Community Camp at Williams Farm for twelve youth. Thanks to the Luther and Susie Harrison Foundation, ALT was able to provide camp scholarships to low-income families. ALT’s FoodCorps service members and two Young Urban Farmers joined campers as they learned about the relationship between agriculture and the environment. Campers learned about the growing cycle by planting, tending, and harvesting crops; they expressed themselves creatively through arts and crafts projects and reflections on their own relationship to the food chain; they explored issues of food justice and what it means to have access to food; and finally, they prepared their own meals from food they harvested themselves as a final celebration with their new friends and their families.

On Saturday, August 27th, Williams Farm hosted 40 volunteers for the annual Dawg Day of Service. This is UGA’s largest annual day of service, providing students the opportunity to work together at sites around Athens-Clarke County to make a positive impact in the community. The farm was transitioning from summer to fall crops, and the extra help was just what was needed to carry us into the next season. ALT’s AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Coordinator Dave Chamberlin worked with students to form new beds for fall crops. Summer crops that were done producing were pulled and composted, creating amendments for healthy soil and future abundance. Interim Farm Manager Emily Cabrera oversaw the operation and shared with students the mission of ALT, the importance of sustainable agriculture, and an up-close experience with the local food system. A huge thanks to the students, and to UGA’s Center for Leadership and Service for including us in the great day of volunteering, working, and learning!

We are grateful to UGA and Federal employees who give through Georgia Shares! Please consider continuing to support ALT this year!

State Charitable Contributions Program: 194072
Combined Federal Campaign: 60107
Athens Land Trust

Staff Updates

This summer, we’ve welcomed some new staff members and said goodbye to a few others. **Krisztian Varsa** has joined ALT as Conservation Director, bringing his expertise in both urban and environmental planning and restoration. He replaces **Kyle Williams**, who is relocating to Champagne, Illinois where his wife will be completing a postdoctoral fellowship. We’re grateful to the Corporation for National and Community Service for selecting ALT as a service site for two additional Americorps VISTAs who are building capacity through outreach and development activities. **Jen Reid**, VISTA Public Relations Coordinator, and **Kamilah Roberts**, VISTA Housing Assistant, joined our team as a VISTA Development Assistant, filling the position vacated by **Erin O’Brien** who took maternity leave in April. Erin returned in July as ALT’s Development and Outreach Coordinator, a position previously held by **Lisa Lewis**. Lisa is taking over responsibilities for managing her family’s Winterville farm. **Kana Miller** is joining ALT’s Farm to School team as a FoodCorps service member, and former FoodCorps fellow **Stephanie Simmons** is ALT’s new Community Agriculture Program Director, replacing **Kelley Thompson**, who left to pursue a Master of Environmental Management at Duke University. We also said goodbye to FoodCorps Service Member **Rachel Waldron**, who is applying her experience from two years of FoodCorps service as the CSA manager for Collective Harvest, and **Manny Stone**, West Broad Farmers Market Manager, who joins the Clarke County School District as the Community Chef and Culinary Arts Coordinator. Local farmer **Emily Cabrera** joins ALT as the interim Williams Farm Manager, taking over for **Ryan Vaughan**.

**AmeriCorps VISTA & FoodCorps Highlights**

In April, Athens Mayor Nancy Denson and Winterville Mayor Dodd Ferrelle honored all area VISTA and FoodCorps service members as part of the 2016 Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service. Joining more than 4,000 mayors nationwide, they recognized volunteers engaged in fighting poverty and hunger through capacity building and direct service in the community. ALT’s service members are part of a local force that is leveraging more than $600,000 annually for the Athens community, recruiting and supporting thousands of other volunteers.

**Thank You ALT Volunteers & Interns!**

**Housing**
- Krishanda Gaines
- Elliot Kim
- Madeleine Marshall
- Mandi Moroz
- Brittney Parks
- McCall Trammell

**Conservation**
- Nate Aschwege
- Nate Aschwege

**Community Agriculture**
- Jake Adair
- Madeleine Banyas
- Tre Brown
- LeeAnne Cordell
- Jill Fox
- Breanna Heaney
- Morgan Nattrass
- Matthew Polston
- Deana Zeigler

We are proud to be a member of Georgia Shares, Inc., as well as a host site for AmeriCorps VISTA and FoodCorps service members.
Thank you to our 2016 partners, members and donors!

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| Lara Mathes & Tony Eubanks Margaret McLanahan Kevin & Mary Frances O’Neil Maria Pardo Chris & Sarah Peterson William Whitman & Paula Schwanenflugel Karl & Debbie Schab John Schelhas & Susie Criswell Margaret Strahl Clayton Wilcox Ed & Sue Wilde Helen Wilkes & Bill Loughner Maureen O’Brien & George Wright |

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In Support of Young Urban Farmers Program
Anonymous Donors to the YUF GoFundMe campaign
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Thank you to our 2016 partners, members and donors!

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Kyle Williams & Sarah Quesada  
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The World Famous  
Sarah Wright  
Chris & Tracy Young  
Magdalena Zurawski

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Lewis & JoBeth Allen  
Jared Bybee & Mehrsa Baradaran  
Pat Clifton  
Dan & Liese Dervartanian  
Bertis & Katherine Downs  
Anne & Dave Gunton  
Frances Hensley & James Okey  
Vickie & Phil Lanoue  
Thom & Elizabeth Leonard  
Maria Lopez & Chris Aubry  
Lara Mathes & Tony Eubanks  
Kevin & Mary Frances O’Neil  
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St. Mary’s Health Care System  
Terrapin Beer Co.

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