



Athens Land Trust

Land for Conservation & Community

685 N. Pope Street • Athens, Georgia 30601

www.athenslandtrust.org

706.613.0122

Newsletter

Fall 2013 • Volume 16 • Issue 2

Williams Farm

On August 22nd, **ALT celebrated the purchase of the Williams Farm** on Ruth Street, the site of our future agriculture education and production center. For several generations, the Williams family has kept the land in agricultural use, and we are grateful for their support of ALT's preservation of the land as a farm. The property is next to the Five Acre Woods, an Athens-Clarke County-owned urban forest where ALT holds a conservation easement, and ALT has had a vision of preserving the farm for many years. The acquisition is a huge landmark for ALT, and we are excited about the numerous possibilities for the farm as a way to grow healthy food, teach sustainable agriculture, and provide jobs for neighborhood residents. Read more about recent activities on the Williams farm on page 5.



L to R, USDA Rural Development Georgia State Director Quinton Robinson, ALT Board members Gregg Bayard and Beth Gavrilles, Mayor Nancy Denson, Rep. Spencer Frye, Athens-Clarke County Assistant Manager Blaine Williams, and Joe Nemetz of Athens First broke ground at the Williams Farm.

Community Agriculture

The **West Broad Farmers Market opened its gates** on Saturday, May 4th, and was a great success despite heavy rains. The subsequent Markets of June, July, August, and September have also been enjoyed by both adults and children. The Market is open on the first Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the West Broad Market Garden, ALT's urban farm, and customers can visit the garden while they shop for fresh vegetables, delicious foods, baked goods, and wonderful handmade crafts, all from local farmers and vendors! The Market also features cooking demonstrations, nutrition education, and children's activities. Read more on pages 2-5.



Customers enjoy the West Broad Farmers Market.

Affordable Housing

During the past few months, **four families have purchased their first homes!** ALT completed the construction of three EarthCraft homes on Waddell Street and the renovation of two homes on Stanelle Drive. Three new EarthCraft homes are under construction in our 15-lot subdivision, Cottages at Cannontown. ALT also purchased five former rental houses that were foreclosed on by a local bank. These projects are a few of the **17 properties for homeownership** that ALT has purchased, constructed or renovated during the past year! See more on pages 8-9.

Land Conservation

Working with local families and conservation partners **ALT has helped preserve 175 more acres, bringing the total acreage protected to 8, 299.** The recent projects include the Shelnett farm in Oconee County and the Civil War battlefield site at Lost Mountain. ALT now has 46 conservation easements protecting land in 20 counties. We are starting to see some great corridor connections with privately held conservation easements, Wildlife Management Areas and National Forest properties. Read more about land conservation on pages 6-7.

Athens Land Trust

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Athens Land Trust is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to promote quality of life through the integration of community and the natural environment by preserving land, creating energy-efficient and affordable housing, and revitalizing neighborhoods.

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Our Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in our office; the meetings are open to the public.

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West Broad Farmers Market



A vendor of natural products at the Market

programs now held at the monthly Markets is the sustainable agriculture workshop series hosted by the Community Garden Network.

The May Market included a cooking demonstration by Jackie Guy, a trained local chef, and the June Market featured a cooking demonstration by Shawanda Johnson of Cooperative Extension, glucose screenings by St. Mary's Hospital, horseback riding for children, and a beekeeping workshop.

The July Market featured children's activities by Canopy Studio, who provided trapeze equipment for children to swing on, and a cooking demonstration by Ms. Yvonne Roberts from WXAG The Light, 1470 AM. St. Mary's Hospital presented a health workshop on Healthy Hearts and Stroke Prevention. The Master Composters also presented ways to compost at home and how our food waste can really enrich the soil, ultimately producing healthier and flavorful fruits and vegetables!

On August 3rd, the Farmers Market hosted a Farm to School workshop featuring fresh produce for My Plate, and the Next Top Chef competition followed them with making healthy lunches including delicious wraps. Jason Wood from EarthFare prepared a salad, using produce from the West Broad Garden. August's Market included horseback riding and free one-to-one nutrition consultations from Athens Regional Medical Center.



Horseback rides at the West Broad Farmers Market

The Market features 23 vendors that include farmers with fresh produce, artisans, bakers, and makers of many delicious foods. Each Market also has cooking demonstrations, health screenings, educational programs, music, and children's activities, including a Next Top Chef competition where children make healthy snacks and compete to win bikes donated by Bike Athens. One of the educational



Children's activities with Canopy Studio

September's market was on a beautiful Saturday where locals and UGA football fans enjoyed the treats of the Market. Jackie Guy did a cooking demonstration, Athens Regional Medical Center offered free individual nutrition consultations, St. Mary's Hospital provided information on cancer awareness, and children of all ages enjoyed the horseback rides.

Community Agriculture



Local fresh produce from the West Broad Market Garden is sold every Tuesday afternoon.

Tuesday Farmers Market

Each week from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, the West Broad Farmers Market hosts local fresh produce from the West Broad Market Garden, a cooking demonstration, children's activities, recipes and other information. This market is held on the corner of Broad and Minor Street in front of the historic school.

West Broad Market Garden

With production starting in the spring of last year, the Market Garden has just completed its full growing season. It has been truly amazing to see how it's transformed and continues to grow and stretch out to every corner of the 1/2 acre plot. From bees and mushrooms to youth programs and the Farmers Market, the garden is quickly becoming a dynamic agricultural education center. The Community Supported Agriculture Program offered a 12-week program to 15 subscribers who picked up fresh vegetables on Tuesdays or Saturdays. The Fall program is providing fresh produce from July 30th to October 26th. The Garden is "Certified Naturally Grown" and the produce from West Broad has been sold to Broad Street Coffee, the Daily Co-op, and The National. If you feel like getting your hands dirty, come pick your own vegetables or give us a hand on Saturdays from 10 am-1 pm.

Sustainability Workshop Series

The Community Garden Network's monthly workshops are now open to anyone and are held at the West Broad Market Garden on the first Saturday as part of the West Broad Farmers Market. In May and September, Dr. Elizabeth Little of the UGA Cooperative Extension Service spoke on organic gardening, pest management, and plant diseases. June's workshop on beekeeping was led by internationally-experienced beekeeper and local farmer Decton Hylton, with assistance from Brendan Nordgren. July's sustainable agriculture workshop was led by West Broad Farm Manager Dana Blanton and Clarke County Master Composter Program participants. The workshop featured home and community-based composting techniques, including composting with worms. In August, Jo'Hannah Baing, UGarden Manager, presented a workshop on garden planning.

New Garden at AIDS Athens

During the past few months, ALT has had the pleasure of assisting the local nonprofit AIDS Athens in establishing The Care Garden to grow food for their clients. Chris McDowell of UGA's Material Reuse Center assisted volunteers and staff of ALT and AIDS Athens in constructing raised beds, vertical planters, and garden benches out of pallets and other reclaimed wood products. AIDS Athens' Patrick Reilly and ALT's Stephanie Bergamo and intern Colleen Dudley have directed volunteers in successfully growing many vegetables, fruits, and herbs.



The Care Garden at AIDS Athens

Athens Land Trust

Vendor Development

With funding from USDA's Farmer Market Promotion Program, ALT is providing business development training for the vendors at the West Broad Farmers Market. These include new and growing businesses making food-based products or hand-made crafts. The initial class of 12 vendors completed an eight-week course in April and shared their business plans at a celebration with food donated by the Olive Garden. ALT provided vendors with a follow-up business development workshop in July, where Ben Walters, an attorney with Silver and Archibald, spoke about disability benefits and business development, and Matthew Epperson discussed cooperatives and how they work. ALT will continue to sponsor workshops on various topics to further support entrepreneur development.



12 vendors completed an eight-week business development training course.



YUF students harvest produce at the West Broad Market Garden.

Young Urban Farmer Development Program

The first class of the Young Urban Farmer (YUF) Development Program continued during the summer with the financial support of the Clarke County School District and the Turner Family Foundation. The youth are developing their entrepreneurship skills as they assist with the West Broad Farmers Markets and learn about agriculture by working in the West Broad Garden. The participants, students at Classic City High School, sold seasoned popcorn, flower bouquets, and birdhouses at the Markets. The first class ended in August and a second class of eight students recently started. We are very grateful for the Clarke County School District's continued support that provides funding for the students' work experience.

Farmer Outreach Workshops

Farmer Outreach workshops were held on May 18th at the Greene County Library, June 29th at the Jefferson Public Library, and July 27th at the Elbert County Library. Dr. Elizabeth Little of the Cooperative Extension Service gave presentations on organic pest management at the workshops in Greene County and Jefferson. At each session, USDA staff members provided information on USDA programs for farmers. These were Cliff Eaddy of Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Craig Scroggs of Rural Development at the Greene County program; Carol Boss from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Reanata Walker of the FSA at the Jefferson program; and Scott Palmer of NRCS and Clay Talton of the Cooperative Extension Service at the Elbert County program. Stephanie Bergamo of ALT also gave a presentation on composting at the Elbert County workshop. ALT collaborated on two events sponsored by USDA and held in Oconee County: the Micro-Irrigation Field Day on April 30th and the Pollinator Habitat Field Day on May 30th.

NRCS Farmer Outreach Grant

ALT received a grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to conduct outreach to underserved farmers in the 10-county region during the coming year. ALT will continue our efforts to increase the participation of underserved farmers in NRCS programs by demonstrating how the programs can enhance farm operations and economic viability, addressing barriers to eligibility, and providing training in business development for farmers. Thank you, NRCS, for this grant of \$46,200!

Community Agriculture

Farm Incubator Program

The Farm Incubator Program is a collaborative effort with UGArden to provide support for underserved individuals interested in farming. The resources provided include access to land, equipment, technical support and training. The goal of the program is to provide participants with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience growing and harvesting crops using sustainable practices. Currently there are seven individuals participating in the program.

ALT's New Property, Williams Farm

ALT's new property, the Williams Farm, is located on Ruth Street very close to downtown Athens. The farm is over five and a half acres and includes two houses, a barn, several outbuildings, and fields surrounded by woods. ALT was able to acquire the property with financing from Athens First Bank and donations from many individuals. Following the groundbreaking on August 22nd, ALT has constructed a greenhouse, cleared invasive plants, and begun the rehabilitation of the farmhouse.



Mike Todd of Bar None Construction is rehabilitating the 83-year-old farmhouse on the property.

EPA Environmental Justice Grant

ALT received an Environmental Justice grant of \$29,700 from the Environmental Protection Agency for the Community Agriculture Program. The grant will support educational activities at the West Broad Market Garden that include gardening and nutrition education for children who attend the nearby Boys & Girls Club, workshops for neighborhood residents in sustainable agriculture, and a community composting program. ALT was one of only four organizations in the Southeast to receive a grant.



UGA staff members volunteer at the Williams Farm.

UGA Leadership Group Volunteers at Williams Farm

During two Saturday mornings in June, staff members who comprise the UGA Finance and Administration Leadership group volunteered at the Williams Farm. The structures on the property were covered with vines and filled with farm equipment, recyclables, and garbage. The UGA staff members, led by Chris McDowell of UGA's Material Reuse Center, enthusiastically mowed, chopped, chain-sawed, and cleared buildings; moved and stored usable lumber; sorted potentially useful items, recyclables and trash; and spread mulch. Although there is still a huge amount of work to fulfill our vision of the Williams Family Farm as an urban agriculture and education center, we are most appreciative of the transformation provided by these UGA volunteers.

Plum Creek Foundation Grant

The Plum Creek Foundation awarded ALT a grant of \$5,000 for a well at the Williams Farm. We greatly appreciate the efforts of Plum Creek employee and ALT garden volunteer Heather Russell and Jim Rundorff of Plum Creek for their support in meeting this essential need.

Good Roots Program with Multiple Choices

ALT is assisting local, nonprofit agency, Multiple Choices for Independent Living, with their Good Roots Program, where people with disabilities are growing seedlings for sale. Multiple Choices received a grant from USDA to provide economic opportunities in the region, and ALT is providing education and training in plant management for the participants.

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152 acres of Civil War battlefields and mature oak-hickory sloped forest are now protected with a conservation easement.

Lost Mountain

In May, ALT completed the protection of the 152-acre Lost Mountain property, site of a Civil War battlefield in Cobb County, with a conservation easement on 133 acres. The first portion of the property, which contains sloping oak-hickory forest, was preserved in 2012. The project was made possible by the generous donation of landowners Raymond M. Reed and family and the help of project partners Trust for Public Land, National Park Service (American Battlefield Protection Program), the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Piedmont Land Trust, with assistance from Quito Anderson of the law firm Sutherland. The historic property will be open to the public



ALT protects the most acreage of the four Georgia-based, accredited land trusts.



42 acres of the Shelnett family farm have been protected with a conservation easement. The farm has been in their family since 1892.

Shelnett Farm

In July, Oconee County farmers Kathy and William “Buddy” Shelnett closed on their conservation easement with funding from USDA’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Oconee County Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Program. This conservation easement protects 42 acres of the Shelnett family farm. The Shelnetts are looking forward to their son taking over full operation of the farm, with their grandchildren’s help. Kathy says, “The farm has been in our family since 1892, and our grandchildren are the 5th generation living on the farm. Watching them gain an appreciation for the land was one of the determining factors of our decision to preserve our farm.” The conservation easement will protect valuable agricultural soils and forest habitat along an important stream. In addition, the Shelnett farm is adjacent to protected land in the Boulder Springs Subdivision. With the protection of the Shelnett farm, more than 180 acres of contiguous conservation land will be preserved in perpetuity.

Conferences

Director of Operations Heather Benham and Conservation Director Laura Hall recently attended a Conservation Easement Workshop, sponsored by the Madison-Morgan Conservancy. The workshop, held at the historic Burge Plantation in Walton County, included presentations by attorneys, appraisers, accountants, and land protection specialists.

Conservation staff members Laura Hall and Dyan Holt attended the national Land Trust Alliance Rally where over 1,600 people shared experiences and expertise about land conservation. The Rally was held September 16th-19th in New Orleans, LA.

Land Conservation

Riverview Foundation Supports Boulevard Woods

Boulevard Woods is a community-driven effort to create a distinctive neighborhood park on a long-vacant lot owned by Athens-Clarke County. The Boulevard Neighborhood Association has been leading the effort to create the park at the junction of Boulevard and Barber Street since 2009. In May, the Riverview Foundation provided a \$75,000 grant for construction of park amenities. The Riverview Foundation supports land conservation in our region and recently provided funding for the purchase of 100 acres of the Tallassee tract for public greenspace. ALT is supporting the Boulevard Neighborhood Association by accepting donations toward the completion of Boulevard Woods. For more details on the project, visit their new website, www.boulevardwoods.org.



Cartter, George, Celia, and Melissa Fontaine of the Riverview Foundation receive a photograph by David Lindsay from Mayor Pro Tem Mike Hamby.

Tallassee Celebration

Landowner Taylor Glover and the Riverview Foundation were honored for their roles in the conservation of the Tallassee Forest, 542 acres of beautiful and ecologically important land along the Middle Oconee River, at a celebration hosted by ALT on April 26th. ALT worked with the honorees, Athens-Clarke County, and The Conservation Fund to facilitate the protection of the tract. A portion of the property, 232 acres, was purchased by an individual and is protected with a conservation easement donated by Mr. Glover and held by ALT. The remaining 310 acres are now owned by Athens-Clarke County, purchased with funding from the SPLOST Greenspace Acquisition Program and a grant from the Riverview Foundation. The County portion is protected with a conservation easement donated by Mr. Glover and held by the Oconee River Land Trust. The easements ensure that the land will remain in a natural state and continue to provide valuable ecological services into the future. The transaction, which took two years and the efforts of many individuals and organizations, was completed in November 2012. Many thanks to the Lyndon House Arts Center for hosting the event, and to Big City Bread for donating refreshments.



Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Glover and attorney Robert Hancock are presented a David Lindsay photograph of the property from Mike Hamby.

Other Land Protection Activities

ALT assisted in the protection of three acres of land along the Middle Oconee River in an Athens neighborhood. The owner wanted to sell the house and three undeveloped building lots as part of Athens-Clarke County's Greenspace Acquisition Program. The County purchased the undeveloped lots with Greenspace funds and ALT found a buyer for the house and placed a deed restriction to limit any future development. The property is adjacent to land already acquired by the County's Greenspace Program.

ALT also helped landowners John and Edna Garst protect a building lot they owned that has large trees and wildlife habitat. The Garsts donated the lot to ALT, and we placed a deed restriction limiting development of the property. The tract is now combined with a neighboring lot and still provides habitat for hawks, owls, and other wildlife. Thank you John and Edna!

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Three new EarthCraft homes on Waddell Street were completed in June.



ALT recently purchased five houses on Bray Street.

New Homes

ALT completed the construction of three EarthCraft homes at 868, 870, and 872 Waddell, where dilapidated houses once stood. ALT held an Open House on June 27th so that neighbors and supporters could see the homes. The houses were designed by Paul Cassilly to fit the narrow infill lots and were built by JOMA Construction.

The first three homes at Cottages at Cannontown are close to completion. All three EarthCraft homes have residents lined up for them. The homes are being constructed by Chesser-Kennedy with the winning designs from our recent contest. The house designed by Lori Bork is our first 4-bedroom, 2-story home. The home on Lot 3 is a design that was revised to suit the lot from several homes previously built. Its 3



Three of the Cottages at Cannontown are under construction.

BR, 2 BA open floor plan has been popular with homeowners. The home on Lot 2 was designed by Will Townes and has a plan that is ADA-compliant. Its shed roof lends itself well to a solar water heater, which has been donated. All three homes are Universal design so that residents can live there as they age and are visitable for people with disabilities.

ALT also purchased five recently-constructed 3- and 4-bedroom houses on Bray Street, just outside of our Cottages at Cannontown neighborhood. The former rental homes had been foreclosed on and were sold to ALT by a local bank.



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.

Funding

ALT received an allocation of \$146,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds from the Athens-Clarke County Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development. This funding comes from HUD and will be used for ALT's Affordable Housing Program from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. ALT has also been allocated \$7,800 of federal funding from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to conduct Homebuyer Education and housing counseling. We greatly appreciate the support of the Mayor and Commission, Housing and Community Development, and DCA.

Affordable Housing



At the closing of Rosetta Kelley, left to right are ALT Vice-President Lara Mathes, Director of Operations Heather Benham, Rosetta and Jeff Bishop of Athens First.



New homeowner Tymica Bryant, third from left, is shown at her closing with Lara, Heather, and attorney Molly Talley of Blasingame, Burch, Garrard, and Ashley.

New Homeowners

Congratulations to four new homeowners who have closed on their homes! **Rosetta Kelley**, Training Coordinator for Arbor Terrace and Employee of the Year for Arbor Company, has purchased 140 Stanelle. **Marquita Richardson**, an employee at Athens Regional Medical Center, is now the owner of 390 Washington Drive. **Jennifer Yearby**, the new owner of 125 Stanelle, works for the UGA Physical Plant. **Tymica Bryant** has purchased 110 Stanelle, and she is employed by the U.S. Post Office. Athens First Bank and Trust, a division of Synovus Bank, provided mortgages for these homeowners, and we greatly appreciate their support of homeownership in Athens!



Celebrating the closing of Marquita Richardson, center, are Jeff Bishop of Athens First and ALT Vice-President Lara Mathes.



Jennifer Yearby, third from left, is congratulated by attorney Molly Talley, Nathan Shannon of ALT, and Jeff Bishop of Athens First.

Homebuyer Education

ALT sponsored Homebuyer Education workshops in May, July, and August which served 35 households. These workshops are eight hours each, held on two consecutive Saturdays at the ALT office, and cover budgeting, credit, responsibilities of homeownership, loans, and the mortgage process. We appreciate the local bankers, realtors, attorneys, and others who donate their time and share their expertise at the classes. These included realtor Shavon Echols; mortgage bankers Mike Paulk of Community Bank and Billy Leopold of Wells Fargo; closing attorneys Laurie Lunsford and Sarah Morang and Alec Hodson of Quarterman and Hodson; and two first-time homebuyers sharing their experience, Wendi Finch & Shakena Colbert.

The workshops are held six times per year. They are led by ALT's Housing Counselor Mary O'Toole. The workshops are free and open to anyone, thanks to funding from DCA and sponsors Oconee State Bank, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Synovus, and First American Bank.

Athens Land Trust

Enterprise Community Partners Supports Waddell Master Plan

With funding from the Enterprise Community Partners, ALT has been collaborating with neighborhood residents and groups to develop a master plan for the Waddell-Henderson area of the Hancock Corridor. Several meetings with community residents were held to gain input on their vision for the neighborhood. The UGA Center for Community Design and Preservation conducted a charrette and developed a plan to address issues raised by residents. ALT is investigating the feasibility of the current plan, and we will take it back to the community for feedback and decisions about next steps. Many thanks to the Enterprise Community Partners for their investment in this neighborhood and to the Athens Housing Authority for their support.



Waddell neighborhood history makers, back row from left, Valdon Daniel, and George Maxwell, middle row, Elizabeth Platt and Elizabeth King, receive the grant check from Watson Brown Junior Board members Madison Prchal and Brook Saye, front row, and Advisor Shanon Stroer, far right, middle row.

Waddell Oral History Project

ALT is the recipient of a grant from the Watson-Brown Junior Board of Trustees to interview residents and publish a history of the Waddell neighborhood. Hearing the residents reminisce about their community and its past ignited this idea of capturing the history of the past 80 years while there are still residents who know it. We are very grateful for the support of the Watson-Brown Junior Board of Trustees in giving them the chance to tell their story for us and for future generations. The history project will build on the information included in Michael Thurmond's book, *A Story Untold: The History of Blacks in Athens*.

Foot Soldier Project Documentary "Reseeding Greatness"

Production is underway on a film, "Reseeding Greatness," that will highlight the little known agricultural history of the West Broad School as well as ALT's current activities as a contribution to this legacy. The documentary is being funded by the Foot Soldier Project of the UGA School of Social Work led by Dr. Maurice Daniels.

ALT Staff Members Visit Charles and Shirley Sherrod and the Southwest Georgia Project

In June, several ALT staff members visited Shirley and Charles Sherrod and the Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education in Albany, GA. Heather Benham, Shyeasta Cullers, Christina Hylton, and Nancy Stangle of ALT met with the Sherrods who were the founders of the first community land trust in the U.S. The Sherrods gave ALT staff a tour of their new farm property, a 1600-acre antebellum plantation called Cypress Pond that is being developed into a production and teaching farm. The Southwest Georgia Project was established in 1961 to help black families and their communities develop their full potential following the destructive impact of segregation. ALT staff also visited the East Baker Community Kitchen and the Southern Journeys Cooperative which are empowering people through economic opportunities.

Thank you to our Partners

Athens-Clarke County
Athens Area Community Foundation
Athens Area Habitat for Humanity
Athens First Bank and Trust
Athens Housing Authority
Bank of America

Clarke County School District
Clarke County Cooperative Extension Service
Enterprise Community Partners
First American Bank and Trust
Fortson, Bentley and Griffin
Georgia Conservancy
Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Oconee State Bank
Sutherland
University of Georgia
US Department of Agriculture
Wells Fargo

Athens Land Trust

GreenFest Awards

ALT presented several awards at the **GreenFest Awards Ceremony** on April 19th. **Carrol and Virginia Beavers received the Conservation Easement Donor of the Year Award** for their protection of 49 acres in Athens-Clarke County where they plan to allow public access for recreation.



Carrol and Virginia Beavers received the Conservation Easement Donor of the Year.

Helen Kuykendall and Shannon Mikus were ALT's Volunteers of the Year. Helen is a Master Gardener and Landscape Architect who volunteered more than 90 hours last year with the Junior Master Gardener Program at Pinewoods Mobile Home Park. The 46 young gardeners ranged in age from pre-school to middle school. Helen

used her expertise to design the garden based on the children's input, helped with the curriculum, conducted a field trip to the Hill First Baptist Garden, and showed the children how to garden. Shannon, also known as Miko, has a Master's in Landscape Architecture, and interned with ALT last summer for 3 months, helping with both the Land Conservation and Community Garden programs. We are very grateful for their contributions during the year.



Helen Kuykendall, left, received a Volunteer of the Year Award from ALT Vice-President Lara Mathes.



Shannon Mikus, left, was also recognized as Volunteer of the Year by Lara Mathes.

The **Community Garden of the Year Award** was presented to **Athena Gardens**, a senior residential community where the residents and staff cooperatively share responsibility for maintaining their community garden. Vegetables from their harvests are regularly enjoyed through communal meals that are prepared in the facility's kitchen.

This year the **Alec Little Awards** recognized the **community garden movement in Athens**, and acknowledged **David Berle and the Hill First Baptist Garden Team**. David Berle, a UGA faculty member since 1999, involves his



Community Garden of the Year Award was presented to Athena Gardens.



Alec Little Awards acknowledged David Berle, above, and the Hill First Baptist Garden Team.

students in helping the Athens community by making service learning an integral component of his teaching program. David envisioned the Community Garden Network and helped ALT obtain federal funding for it. He and his students have provided over 10,000 hours of volunteer labor for the Network. The Hill First Baptist Church on Pope Street has a very successful community garden that was started about five years ago by Karen Witten, with the help of church members and other neighborhood residents. The workers cleared a kudzu- and trash-choked ravine and turned the area into a lush garden that has become a neighborhood showpiece and produces a bounty of vegetables for residents.

ALT Board Member **Alfie Vick**, Associate Professor in the UGA College of Environment and Design, received **the Outstanding Faculty Award** from the UGA Office of Sustainability.

Athens Land Trust

Upcountry Oyster Roast

The **2nd annual Upcountry Oyster Roast** was held on April 7th to **celebrate the collaborations that protected more than 5,200 acres in ten Georgia Counties during 2012.** About 75 landowners and conservation partners enjoyed steamed oysters and clams near the Apalachee River. By working with the landowners to protect their properties, ALT is helping to create healthy upstream ecosystems that are necessary for oysters, shrimp, and other seafoods downstream. **Many thanks to Charlie Phillips** of Sapelo Sea Farms for providing the delicious oysters and clams, **Walter O'Niell** for the beer, **Marti's at Midday** and **Donna Shannon** for desserts, and **Lee Moody** for allowing us to use his land on the Apalachee for the event.



Guests enjoy the seafood at the 2nd Annual Upcountry Oyster Roast.

Riding for a Reason

ALT's **3rd Annual Riding for a Reason** on May 18th featured a metric century (62 miles) loop from Bishop to Dale and Lisa Wiley's farm in Jersey and back. About 50 cyclists enjoyed the beautiful ride to the **168-acre Walton County farm which is protected by a permanent agricultural conservation easement held by ALT.** The ride began in Oconee County very close to three family farms protected with funding from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Oconee County. The event raised about \$1,500 for ALT. **Many thanks to the Dale and Lisa Wiley** for hosting the riders, **Poplar Springs Baptist Church** for providing lunch, **Ken Sherman** for organizing the ride, and our **generous sponsors!**



Cyclists gather at the start of the 3rd Annual Riding for a Reason.



Chris Nichols, The Rackley Family, Dayne and Donna Shannon

Athens Land Trust

2013 Annual Meeting

On the gorgeous sunny afternoon of September 22nd, **ALT held our Annual Meeting**, which featured a tour of several of our projects. We decided to show our members a few of the projects that we have been working on this year. We took the group to the **Williams Farm**, where volunteers were clearing brush and the greenhouse was under construction. We walked through three new EarthCraft homes in our subdivision **Cottages at Cannontown** that are almost complete and drove past **Fourth Street Village** around the corner. Next we took the group to the **West Broad Market Garden** where fall planting is underway and several of the **Young Urban Farmers** were helping out. Finally, we got a glimpse of the beautiful forest of the **232-acre Tallassee tract** which is protected by a conservation easement.



Bantu Gross and Young Urban Farmers show the West Broad Market Garden.



Guests enjoy the Double Dollars Fundraiser at The National on May 4th.

Double Dollars Fundraiser

The **Double Dollar Fundraiser** held at The National on May 4th was a delightful evening featuring a five-course wine-paired dinner prepared by **Chef Peter Dale**. Several items on the menu were grown at the West Broad Market Garden. A major purpose of the West Broad Farmers Market is to make healthy, fresh produce affordable and available to neighborhood residents, and the proceeds from the dinner are being used at the Market to double the value of Food Stamp dollars for customers. Many thanks to Peter Dale for his commitment to ALT's Community Agriculture Program and to the generous individuals who supported the dinner.

6th Annual Harvest Moon Dinner

The **sixth annual Harvest Moon Dinner** to benefit the Athens Land Trust is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th. The Harvest Moon Dinner was created as an intimate dinner among friends celebrating the landscapes of our community with great food and wine. This year's event features **Chef Peter Dale of The National and Dean Neff, formerly of Five and Ten, on the Bennett Family Farm** in Walton County. Russell Bennett is a longtime ALT supporter and raises grass-fed beef and pastured hens on his 110-acre farm. Tickets are \$150 each, of which \$75 is a tax deductible donation. For more details, email nathan@athenslandtrust.org or call the office at 706.613.0122.



Athens Land Trust

Staff News

ALT was sorry to say goodbye to two staff members--**Fenwick Broyard** who recently became Executive Director at Community Connection after working with our community agriculture program for two years, and **Dana Blanton**, who did a wonderful job establishing the West Broad Market Garden over the past 18 months. We are pleased that **Christina Hylton**, our current Farmers Market Manager/Education Coordinator, will be taking on the role of Community Agriculture Program Coordinator, and **Bantu Gross**, an experienced youth counselor and current PhD student in Recreation and Leisure Studies at UGA, has taken over the coordination of the Young Urban Farmer Development Program.

ALT is also pleased to have **Shavon Echols** joining the staff as the part-time Homeownership Coordinator. Shavon brings to ALT her nine years of experience as a realtor. For the past three years, she has been a realtor at Coldwell Banker, where she will continue to work. Shavon has been a frequent guest speaker in ALT's Homebuyer Education workshops.



Christina Hylton, ALT's new Community Agriculture Program Coordinator, pictured at right with West Broad vendor Willa Fambrough of "I Cookie for You"



ALT staff members, left to right: front row, Lauren Stubbs, Shavon Echols, Dyan Holt, and Mary O'Toole; middle row, Nancy Stangle, Lynda Stipe, Laura Hall, and Stephanie Bergamo; back row, Bantu Gross, Heather Benham, Shy Cullers, and Nathan Shannon. Not pictured is Christina Hylton.

ALT was fortunate to have several outstanding interns during the summer. Continuing from spring semester with ALT's Community Agriculture Program were **Colleen Dudley**, a junior at the University of North Georgia, and **Tyra Gross**, a doctoral student in Health Promotion at UGA. Colleen has been a huge help in all of ALT's gardens for the past two semesters. Tyra has been instrumental in managing the community development area at our Saturday markets and has helped to organize the health workshops, cooking demonstrations, and other activities. **Evamarie Siegal** is an undergraduate student at UGA in the Geography Department. Eva helps keep our children healthy at all of our Farmers' Markets by coordinating activities such as farm tours, arts and crafts, face painting, and physical fitness activities as well as providing healthy snacks for our youth. **Laura Bimson** is a graduate student in the College of Agriculture at UGA. She has been volunteering with us throughout the summer at our farmers markets, and we appreciate her dedication and commitment to talking with our customers regarding their experiences. **Lauren Valencic** is studying for a Master's Degree in Public Health with a concentration in Health

Promotion and Behavior. Lauren has been a key asset in assisting in the development of nutrition education material that is displayed at the West Broad Farmers Market, developing data charts from health surveys, and marketing our Farmers Market. Lauren can be seen at the West Broad Farmers Market Welcome Table at all of our farmers markets. **Jack Matthews**, a student in the College of Environment and Design, is helping the Conservation Program, as well as working on the Williams Farm concept plan. **Andrew Kowalski** has been assisting the ALT staff with many tasks this summer. He is a senior at UGA majoring in Business Administration and Management. **Trent Quan** is in the Master's in Fine Arts interior design program at UGA. Trent, who has two years of teaching experience, has been helping ALT with the designs and specifications of our affordable houses.

Athens Land Trust

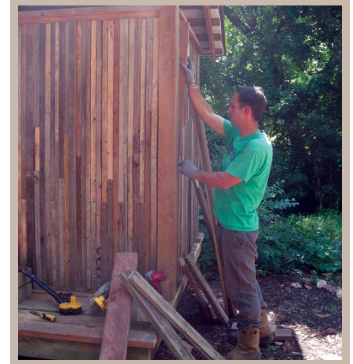
In the past few months, ALT has received donations of \$49,500 from **several generous supporters who wish to remain anonymous**. These donations have provided much-needed funding for our many programs. We want each of you to know how grateful we are for your amazing support of ALT! We also appreciate the involvement of the Orange County Community Foundation and the Athens Area Community Foundation in a few of these donations.

Speaking of anonymous donations, we appreciate the support of **employees who give through the UGA Campaign for Charities and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)**! These workplace giving programs provide a great deal of support for ALT each year. ALT is part of Georgia Shares, a federation of organizations that are working to improve quality of life through social justice. **Our CFC number is #60107**. Thank you to the many employees who donate to ALT in this way!

ALT would like to thank **Travis Ward and Justin Rogers** for their production of a public service announcement video used in 2013 Eco Focus Film Festival and thank you to CINÉ!

Thank you to the customers of the new **Independent Baking Co.** who made donations to ALT last month at the bakery's tip jar!

Chris McDowell of the UGA Material Reuse Center provided ALT with a garden shed for our office. The beautiful shed is made from reclaimed wood from an old barn. Thank you, Chris!



Thank you Chris McDowell for ALT's new garden shed

Thanks to **Ethan Jones**, a local Eagle Scout who volunteered his time to make the garden at the Athens Area Council on Aging groundhog-proof.

ALT is deeply saddened by the death of **Al Pless**, Board member and Treasurer of ALT from 1998 through 2004, and supporter throughout his life. We are privileged to have been the beneficiary of Al's expertise, leadership, and dedication for many years. Thank you to the people who have made donations to ALT in memory of Al.

Thank you to our members and donors in since March 2013!

Forest

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Elena Brown & Jared Harper
Dev & Gene Weeks
The Winthrop Foundation

Grove

Lucy Rowland
Grady Thrasher & Kathy Prescott

Oak

Kevin Barnes & Sara Beresford
Gregg Bayard
Sally & Dan Coenen
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Maria Camila Pardo in honor of Jared Harper

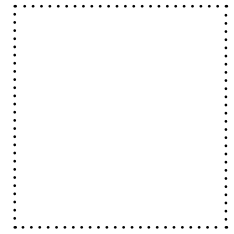
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