



## Newsletter

Fall 2014 • Volume 17 • Issue 2



*Pictured are Lynda Stipe, Nathan Shannon, Heather Benham, Nancy Stangle, Skipper StipeMaas, and Shavon Echols at the EarthCraft Celebration*

### ALT Wins EarthCraft Builder of the Year Award

On October 29, Athens Land Trust was named Builder of the Year by Southface and the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association (GAHBA) at the EarthCraft Celebration of Excellence. EarthCraft, the Southeast's premier green building certification program, promotes energy efficient, healthy, comfortable, and durable new construction and renovation. ALT was honored for leadership and excellence in green building design and construction.

The award was presented by David Ellis, executive vice president of the GAHBA, and Scott Lee, director of residential green building services at Southface. Over 100 industry leaders were in attendance at the Southface Eco Office in downtown Atlanta. "We are proud of the outstanding work that Athens Land Trust does to advance green building in the Southeast. We celebrate their vision and their leadership," said Lee.

### ALT Earns Renewed Accreditation

In August, ALT earned renewed accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. Reaccreditation is a huge benchmark and achievement for ALT. From the beginning, ALT has used the Land Trust Alliance's standards and practices to guide our land conservation work. Remaining accredited is critical for our growth and confirms that we are continuing to meet the highest ethical standards in the field of land conservation as well as in our affordable housing and community agriculture programs. Accreditation renewal must be completed every five years and requires extensive documentation and a rigorous review to achieve. According to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission Director, Tammara Van Ryn, "Accreditation provides the public with the assurance that accredited land trusts meet high standards for quality and that the results of their conservation work are permanent." Van Ryn also notes that accredited land trusts now account for 75% of the 20,645,165 acres currently owned in fee or protected by a conservation easement held by a land trust.

### USDA Celebrates National Farm to School Month with ALT Events

In conjunction with National Farm to School Month, the USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, Dr. Janey Thornton, came to Athens on October 22 to participate in a day of events hosted by ALT. Dr. Thornton joined leaders within the Clarke County School District, county officials, UGA representatives, and ALT staff for a roundtable discussion at the West Broad Market Garden. During this meeting, Dr. Thornton stressed the importance of students being involved in the entire food production process, noting that when kids take part in growing foods, they are far more likely to eat them. As a case in point, later in the day, with Dr. Thornton, Clarke Middle School students enjoyed tasting kale that was grown in their own school garden, supplemented by kale grown at the West Broad Market Garden. The day wrapped up with a Young Urban Farmer Workshop at West Broad where the students were able to ask Dr. Thornton questions about Washington D.C. and President Obama.



*Clarke Middle School students with Dr. Janey Thornton and the kale they sampled*

# Athens Land Trust

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Young Urban Farmer Program Coordinator,  
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Farm Program Assistant, Seth Nivens  
Staff Horticulturalist, Stephanie Bergamo  
Farmer Outreach Coordinator, Christina Hylton  
Williams Farm Manager, Dana Blanton

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Athens, Georgia 30601-2331  
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[www.athenslandtrust.org](http://www.athenslandtrust.org)

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

[www.facebook.com/athenslandtrust](http://www.facebook.com/athenslandtrust)

## Upcoming Events and Announcements

### West Broad Farmers Market

Holiday Craft Market  
Saturday, December 13  
10am - 2pm

Join us for cookie decorating and  
community craft activities! This will be our  
last market for 2014, so don't miss it!

Market runs through Dec. 13  
Saturday 10am - 2pm  
Tuesday 3pm - dusk

1573 West Broad Street

### MLK Day of Service 2015

Mark your calendars for the next Dr. Martin  
Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Monday,  
January 19. There will be volunteer  
opportunities at West Broad Market  
Garden! Please check our website in  
December for details.

### Holiday Benevolence Market

Shop for symbolic gifts from ALT and  
other Athens-area non-profits on  
Sunday, December 7 from noon until  
2:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church  
or online through December 31 at  
[www.firstpresathens.org/  
benevolencemarket](http://www.firstpresathens.org/benevolencemarket).

### A Special Thanks...

to Meagan Costello, Robyn Raschke,  
and the Riverview Foundation for their  
generous donations toward the ALT film  
documentary created by Erica McCarthy of  
Nowhere Productions. This wonderful film  
was the highlight of our 20th Anniversary  
Celebration.

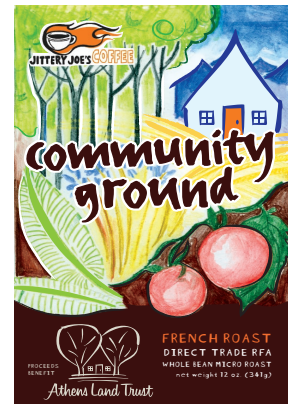
*Athens Land Trust is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to  
encourage cohesive communities by conserving land and natural resources,  
providing sustainable affordable housing, and supporting local agriculture.*



*A few of the honorees at the Agricultural Heritage  
Day Celebration at West Broad on November 1*

### ALT Coffee is Here!

Our own coffee label, "Community Ground,"  
is now available! Roasted by Jittery Joe's  
from a direct trade farm in Nicaragua, this  
special blend can be purchased for \$12 per  
12-ounce can from the West Broad Farmers  
Market and Jittery Joe's Roastery on Barber  
Street. A portion of all sales will be returned  
to ALT.



### Homebuyer Education Workshop

January 24 & January 31  
from 12:30pm to 4:30pm  
Athens Land Trust Office  
685 N. Pope Street  
Athens, Georgia 30601



# Athens Land Trust

## ALT Co-Founder, Emerita Director, Retires

As I reflect on ALT's 20th Anniversary and my upcoming retirement, I can definitely say that these past 20 years have been an amazing journey! I am filled with tremendous gratitude when I think of the many people who made this milestone happen.

ALT started in December 1994, as "A local, community-based organization for open space preservation and affordable, renewable-energy housing." ALT conducted a Square Yard Fundraiser in December 1994, which raised \$220, and by May 5, 1995, we had received \$200 in membership dues. From this beginning, ALT grew to what it is today.

During our first few years, we collaborated with Athens Grow Green Coalition and other groups to educate the community about sustainable land use and smart growth, as Athens-Clarke County was rewriting its comprehensive plan. In the late 90's, sprawl-type development was claiming farmland, forests, and other green space at an alarming rate. Georgia ranked third in loss of farmland, and we were experiencing issues with our air and water quality. People feared that we would become a suburb of Atlanta. Housing was also unaffordable for many people and the homeownership rate in the county was well below the state average.

I'm proud of how ALT's many programs and initiatives have addressed these concerns. These include the Greenspace acquisition program in Athens-Clarke County that has acquired the Beech Haven and Tallassee tracts, permanently affordable housing that is energy-efficient and healthy, farmland protection in the region, and the Market Garden and Farmers Market at the West Broad School. I am most proud of the impact on families who are buying homes, preserving their farms, eating healthy food, or learning to be entrepreneurs. ALT has been a dynamic and evolving organization, addressing community needs as they were identified.

ALT's success is based on the commitment and generosity of many people who embraced the vision of improving quality of life for local residents. It has been a privilege to collaborate with each of you, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such dedicated staff and Board members over these past 20 years. I have been especially blessed to work with Heather, whose vision and commitment to ALT have greatly inspired me. I am excited about ALT's future under her leadership and with our wonderful Board and staff. Thank you for your support and your investment in a healthier, more sustainable community.



*Nancy, center, in 1994 with ALT co-founder Skipper StipeMaas at right and long-time ALT Board Member Charlie Jameson at left*

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## A Message From Our Executive Director

Working with Nancy the last 11 years has been the most incredible experience. I am so grateful for her vision and dedication to this organization. She created my dream job – one where I feel like every day I am able to do something meaningful, for a community I love, while getting to work with the most amazing people. Speaking of amazing people, we've hired several new folks to try and replace the workload that Nancy's been carrying. So, while I'm sad to see her leave, I'm really excited about what we have on the horizon.

We are encouraged about a partnership with the Clarke County School District to revitalize the West Broad campus and surrounding neighborhood while creating a wonderful, permanent home for the garden. We constantly hear that the garden is the best kept secret in Athens and we want to share the secret! We are currently working with 11 high school students from Classic City, Clarke Central, and Cedar Shoals who are the most inspiring young farmers I've ever seen. We have so many wonderful projects going on I don't have enough room to brag on them all, but this collection of articles will give you a taste. I hope you are impressed with what you see and will continue to support this important work.



# Affordable Housing

## Homebuyer Education

ALT led homebuyer education and financial literacy workshops in July, August, September, and October. A total of 34 households attended the homebuyer education sessions and 32 households attended the accompanying financial literacy/credit sessions. ALT's housing counselor, Mary O'Toole, has also provided information and referral services to 28 households since July. Speakers at the workshops included first-time home buyers, Jackie Roberts and Kirrena Gallagher; closing attorneys, Alec Hodson, John Laster, Anne Carter, and Sarah Morang; lenders, Vicky Samuels with Homestar Financial Corp., and Jeff Bishop with Athens First Bank & Trust/Synovus; and Norris Diaz with Shane Dekle State Farm. The workshops were led by Ms. O'Toole and ALT Homeownership Coordinator Shavon Echols. Many thanks to the workshop speakers for sharing their expertise and experience!

## Cottages at Cannontown



*On August 15, ALT hosted an open house of our Eco Cottages at Cannontown, located on Bray Street. Currently, the homes at 100 and 110 Cannontown are available and 120 Cannontown has a lease-purchase contract on it.*



## Affordable Housing Funding

ALT's Affordable Housing Program received Community Development Block Grant dollars totaling \$180,815 and HOME funds in the amount of \$264,650 for the purchase and renovation of 804, 806 and 814 Waddell Street. These funds are federal dollars that are administered by Athens-Clarke County's Department of Housing and Community Development. In addition, ALT received \$2,500 from Bank of America and \$4,000 from Wells Fargo to increase homeownership. We are very grateful for this financial support for affordable housing!

*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.*



## Nancy Stangle Receives Swann-Matthei Award

On April 27, Nancy Stangle, Co-Founder and Emerita Director, traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, to accept the 2014 Swann-Matthei Award. This national award recognizes the outstanding contribution of an individual or organization in promoting the use of a community land trust in building and sustaining community. The award is given once a year to a recipient who has helped grow the community land trust movement. Each year, the Community Land Trust Network solicits nominations from its members for the Swann-Matthei Award to recognize someone doing outstanding work in the world of community land trusts. Once members submit their nominations, the Network Board of Directors votes and selects a recipient. The Swann-Matthei Award is named for two individuals who helped to lay the foundation for the development of community land trusts in the United States: Bob Swann and Chuck Matthei. In order to be eligible for nomination, individuals must have worked at least 10 years with a community land trust and must have completed a significant body of work that has contributed to the growth and sustainability of the community land trust movement, such as a lasting organization like the Athens Land Trust. Congratulations to Nancy for receiving this much-deserved award!



# Land Conservation

## Conference News

In August, Executive Director Heather Benham attended the 10th Annual Madison-Morgan Conservancy Conservation Easement Workshop, held at the Burge Plantation in Mansfield, Georgia. This year's topic focused on the role of appraisals in conservation tax credits and deductions. One of Athens Land Trust's recent conservation easement donors, William Pharr, was featured in the program—his was the first application for the Georgia Tax Credit to be approved under the new stringent process.

This year's Land Trust Alliance Rally was held in Providence, Rhode Island, in September. Heather Benham was among over 1,800 people involved in land conservation work from around the country who gathered to participate in the more than 100 workshops. Heather presented a workshop entitled "Creating Livable Cities: Thinking Outside the Land Conservation Box." The room was overflowing with participants interested in how they could make their work more community-focused. ALT continues to be held up as a model for looking at community needs in a holistic manner.

## Agricultural Easement Funding

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) recently approved \$179,200 for ALT to purchase a permanent agricultural conservation easement on the Oconee County farm that was selected by the County Board of Commissioners. The funding is part of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE), which has replaced the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP). (The Shelnett Farm, featured at right, was the last farm to be protected under FRPP in 2013.) Oconee County will provide funds for the purchase of the easement through their SPLOST program and the landowner will donate a portion of the value of the easement. ALT will monitor and defend the easement in perpetuity. ALT is a state leader in farmland protection and has worked with NRCS to protect eight farms totalling 707 acres.

## The Shelnetts Talk About Preserving Their Farm

As we saw Oconee County farmland being developed into real estate over the years, our love of the family homestead grew to be more important in our lives as both a home and farm. As we worked to farm the land by raising cattle, hay, and vegetables, our grandchildren were there learning and helping do what had been done by the same family since 1892. Watching this 5th generation born and raised on the land to develop the same love of the homestead as we have, led us to put our farm into a conversation easement in perpetuity with Athens Land Trust. Since closing on our easement, ALT and Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) have helped us to implement a conservation plan. Using their guidance, we are doing things that will help to prevent erosion, protect our creek and natural areas, and improve the open land. We're currently maintaining hay fields and raising vegetables on the open land. Our plans are to market the hay and in the future offer a pick-your-own type of vegetable garden. Once improvements are made to protect the creek, we plan to add cattle back into our operation. Our natural woods are a source of refuge from a hectic day. They're filled with diverse wildlife – deer, turkey, rabbits, chipmunks, fox, and all kinds of birds. We are not sure what direction our grandchildren will take with the farm but we are certain that they will continue in agriculture. They are inherently tied to the land. The conservation easement will allow them to continue the Shelnett legacy of being good stewards of the land and leave it better for the next generation.



*Looking through the forest to the creek and agricultural fields*

- Kathy & Buddy Shelnett

## Boulevard Woods

Thanks to the generous donors listed on page 11, the final push to raise money needed to build Boulevard Woods was reached four days ahead of schedule! ALT was a key partner in the fundraising effort, and will continue playing a crucial role as the project moves into the construction phase. Under an agreement that's still being worked out with Athens-Clarke County, ALT will lease the park site for purposes of construction. When the park is built, ACC will take ownership and start operating and maintaining Boulevard Woods as a public park under the Leisure Services Department. Dan Lorentz, chair of the Boulevard Neighborhood Association's park standing committee, says if all goes well, the Mayor and Commission may be ready to give the green light for construction to begin in Spring 2015. "Finishing up with the fundraising was a huge step forward," Lorentz says. "It was exciting and gratifying to see the neighborhood and people from all over Athens come together and support Boulevard Woods in these last few weeks. ALT was a big part of making that happen—they gave our donors extra confidence and the chance to claim a tax deduction, and now ALT is stepping up to help during the construction phase."

# Community Agriculture

## FoodCorps Service Members Join ALT Staff!

In September, two FoodCorps Service Members joined our Farm to School program. Connie Roberts and Rachel Waldron have been working to achieve the FoodCorps mission by teaching hands-on lessons about food and nutrition to students in Clarke County. Their goals are to revitalize school gardens and to help create sustainable, garden-based learning for youth. They will also work to integrate school-grown produce into cafeterias. By the end of Connie and Rachel's year of service, we expect to see improved eating habits among the students they've worked with, including greater consumption of fresh produce. Thank you to our donors who helped make these positions available. FoodCorps is a national service organization that currently has 182 service members at 145 sites across 16 states and Washington, D.C. We're so fortunate to have Connie and Rachel serve our community! Read below to find out why they chose to become FoodCorps Service Members.



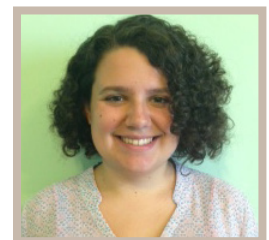
I have always felt drawn to working with people in the hopes of improving their well-being, but with what focus was unclear. After working on several farms and on an education-focused community garden, I realized that food is unique in that it exists at the crossroads of many of our world's joys and sorrows. Food is sustenance, but it is also the glue of culture, the convenor of family and friends. However, the modern food system is causing much damage to the people of the world, as well as our fragile environment. I am passionate about educating kids on the benefits and pleasures of eating healthily and locally with the hopes that they will grow up aware of their significance as environmental stewards and keepers of their own health. With this awareness, I believe this emerging generation will feel empowered to further spread the seeds of change.

- Connie Roberts



I heard about FoodCorps when I completed a year as a service member with AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) in Denver. I was already a strong supporter of the Farm to School movement since it combined two of my passions, kids and food, and worked to fill what I believed to be a serious gap in our nation's educational standards. After working at my college garden and another farm post-graduation, it became clear that Farm to School was something that I was going to pursue. I did not immediately apply to FoodCorps upon learning of its existence, however. Instead, I chose to move back to Georgia to be closer to my family. A year after returning to the Atlanta area, I happened to stumble across the announcement that FoodCorps would be expanding into Georgia. I was delighted! I applied instantly and haven't looked back.

- Rachel Waldron



## Athens Land Trust Receives Several Federal Grants Supporting Local Food and Economic Development

ALT was recently awarded grants from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA's Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP), and Athens-Clarke County Department of Housing and Community Development. These grants will expand on the West Broad Farmers Market's success by generating even more locally-grown, fresh produce for the community. With the NIFA funding, ALT will build on the agricultural tradition of the historic West Broad School by establishing a community food center supporting area farmers and providing opportunities to learn about agriculture, nutrition, and cooking. Training at-risk youth in sustainable agriculture, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and job readiness is an additional component of this project. The Local Food Promotion grant will support ALT in starting a community supported agriculture (CSA) program to serve local restaurants and institutions. Funding from ACC, \$75,758 in Community Development Block Grant dollars, are supporting economic development, including our Young Urban Farmer Program and other programs at West Broad and the Williams Farm.



*Boys and Girls Club members making snacks with fresh cucumbers grown at West Broad*

# Community Agriculture

## A Word from the Young Urban Farmer (YUF) Program Coordinator

The third class of the YUF Program is underway. As of October, 11 high school students from Clarke County Schools (Classic City, Clarke Central, and Cedar Shoals) have been accepted in the program. We have a diverse group of students; they have very unique personalities, and very different goals, but they all share this passion for sustainable agriculture. It's only been a few weeks, but I can already tell our students are eager to learn. With the assistance of our Farm Program Assistant, Seth Nivens, and FoodCorps Service Members, Connie Roberts and Rachel Waldron, students have spent the last few weeks familiarizing themselves with basic gardening techniques and gardening tools. They've also played a key role in the weekly West Broad Farmers Market. Our students are committed to assisting with the market operations and learning the business aspects of the agricultural industry. As the months go by, we will continue to expose them to various agricultural and entrepreneurial skills so that later on in the program they will be able to create and implement a successful business plan. Students were also very excited to have the pleasure of spending a workday with Dr. Janey Thornton, who is the USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services!

- Nathalie Celestin, Young Urban Farmer Program Coordinator



*YUF students learning about composting methods*

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## Featured West Broad Farmers Market Vendor: Willa Fambrough

I have lived in Athens since the age of 9 and have been baking for family, friends, and church family since the early 80s. Baking is something that seems like an extension of me. In 2013, Christina at the Land Trust was seeking people for a class on how to start a business. My friend took a card from her and brought me one. I called and signed up for the class. Through the Athens Land Trust classes we received the most comprehensive entrepreneurial training ever. I know how to bake but had no idea about the financial side. After the class, I knew what my products cost, down to the ounce. We learned how to price and advertise our products and received our food-handling safety certificate.

This is my second season at the Market. Because of the information and teachings I received in the classes, I have my state Cottage Food License, my city business license, a Federal Tax ID and a registered trademark for my business. My specialties are gourmet cookies, brownies, and pies. Because I love to bake, to create, to see that smile on the customer's face when they sample my product, I want everything I bake to be unique, delicious and special.

The West Broad Farmers Market is no longer one of the best kept secrets in Athens. More and more people are coming to shop, see the gardens, take a moment to sit on the edge of the garden with their children and to enjoy the other amenities (cooking demos and entertainment). This is exactly the place I want to be to start to grow my business. The people in the community and surrounding communities are able to get naturally-grown produce and dairy and one-of-a-kind, hand- and homemade products. I know for my granddaughter and me we will never forget the times we have spent together here in the gardens.

The Market has a great spirit of peacefulness, yet it's exciting with many smiling faces and a chance to meet new and old friends, as well as an opportunity to enjoy the rich culture that we all bring to the market.

- Willa Fambrough, Owner of ICOOK\_IFORYOU



*Willa Fambrough with granddaughter Gabrielle in their booth full of sweet treats!*

# Farm to School

## National Farm to School Month Celebrations

October was National Farm to School Month. To celebrate, Athens Farm to School participated in Georgia Organics' "Grow Radish Grow!" campaign. This involved a discussion about how radishes grow and why they are healthy, a taste test of sliced radishes and chopped radish greens with the option of ranch dressing, and a radish planting activity in which students planted radish seeds in milk cartons. These activities were facilitated with students in the after school programs at J.J. Harris Elementary and Oglethorpe Elementary Schools.



Athens Farm to School also led its first cafeteria taste test at Coile Middle School, in honor of Farm to School Month. Farm to School staff and volunteers prepped radishes in collaboration with cafeteria staff, and 340 students, along with Principal Dwight Manzy, sampled the radishes! The students voted on whether or not they liked what they tasted. Fifty-six percent indicated that, indeed, they did!

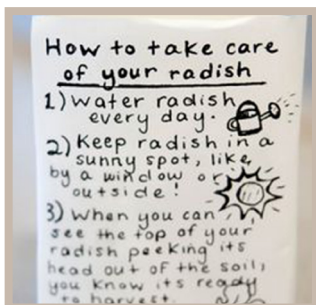
A "Find the Radish" activity was sponsored by Athens Farm to School, West Broad Farmers Market, and the Athens Farmers Market. Students had the opportunity to hunt for radishes hidden at local establishments including the Athens-Clarke County Library and the Boys and Girls Club. Students were then able to redeem staff signatures (verifying that they'd found a radish) for tokens at the West Broad or Athens Farmers Markets.

## Taste Tests

In addition to the four Farm to School monthly taste tests, Athens Farm to School led two Farm to Fork taste tests with middle and high school students. Students at Clarke Central High School and Clarke Middle School participated in a discussion about how the featured item was grown, why it's healthy, and why eating locally-produced food is important. Featured vegetables included kale and cherry tomatoes. After participating, 65% of the high school students reported a desire to incorporate more local, farm-fresh fare into their diets.

## School Gardens and Garden-Based Learning

Our FoodCorps Service Members revitalized the garden at Coile Middle School and planted winter vegetables including broccoli. Our Farm to School partner, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, reports that all schools have gardens and have hosted ten garden workdays this school year. Ten schools received seeds and 17 received plant starts for their gardens.



Students from Coile Middle School came to the West Broad Market Garden to participate in an On-Farm Food Safety training facilitated by UGA Cooperative Extension, another one of our Farm to School partners. Students learned about potential safety hazards that can arise when working with crops and participated in a radish-planting activity.



*Clarke Central students preparing cherry tomatoes*

## Local Procurement

Athens Farm to School has successfully completed four procurement cycles. Locally-grown spinach was served in April, cucumbers in July, cherry tomatoes in August, and sweet potatoes in September. Items were sourced locally from Burnell Farms, Foster Brady Farms, Lazy Willow Farm, ALT's West Broad Market Garden, and ALT's Williams Farm.

# Athens Land Trust

## Staff News

**Heather Benham** was appointed as Executive Director earlier this year, turning her Director of Operations title over to **Nathan Shannon**, who had been ALT's Office and Asset Manager for several years. **Christina Hylton** switched roles to become our Farmer Outreach Coordinator while **Almeta Tulloss** assumed duties as ALT's Local Food Programs Coordinator. **Dana Blanton**, who was previously at the West Broad Market Garden, is now managing the Williams Farm.



*Connie Roberts, Amber Flanigan, and Almeta Tulloss at J.J. Harris Elementary taste test*

**Amber Flanigan** became our Farm to School Coordinator in July. She is enrolled in a dual degree masters program in social work and public health. In September, **Lisa Lewis** became Development and Outreach Coordinator and **Connie Roberts and Rachel Waldron** joined ALT as FoodCorps Service Members (see page 6 for more). **Nathalie Celestin**, who is pursuing a masters in public health, is the current Young Urban Farmer Program Coordinator and **Seth Nivens**, who has been engaged with community and school gardens for a number of years, is our new Farm Program Assistant. UGA management and music business major, **Wyesha Dillard**, joined ALT in October as Housing Assistant. In November, we welcomed **Kelley Robbins-Thompson** as Director of our Community Agriculture Program and **David Ogunsanya** as Housing Director. Kelley was previously with San Antonio's City Year, an organization that works to bridge the gap in high-poverty communities between the support students in the communities actually need and what their schools are designed to provide. David comes to ALT from City First Homes Inc, a permanently affordable housing nonprofit in Washington, DC, where he was the Program and Stewardship Manager. **Erin O'Brien** and **Paris Harper** also joined ALT in November as VISTA Service Members assisting with development and outreach, respectively, and **Shannon McBride** began as ALT's Farm Business Manager.

We are sad to say goodbye to several long-time ALT employees. **Lynda Stipe**, our Design Coordinator, has moved on to expand her own business, Perigrine D Group. We want to thank her for all her help getting ALT a set of stock plans to use and for her commitment to green building. **Laura Hall**, our Conservation Director, has also left ALT in order to do more landscape design for her business, while also working at the Oconee River Land Trust, focusing specifically on stewardship. We wish them the best of luck and will miss their expertise. We also wish **Nancy Stangle** well in her retirement and appreciate her many years of service.

We are appreciative of several UGA student interns who have contributed to our programs. **Ally Chastain**, a junior majoring in business management, has been working with our Community Agriculture Program since May, helping schedule weekly market vendors and activities. **Evan Walker**, an environmental health student, is also helping our Community Agriculture Program with data transfer and grant support. **Catherine Harris**, who is pursuing an MA in nonprofit organizations, has been assisting with grants and development since September. **Michelle Heideman**, a senior majoring in marketing and risk management, assists with West Broad advertising, and law student, **Jonathan Clark**, has worked on grants and assisted with a variety of conservation projects.

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The **Williams Farm** is located on a really special piece of land that feels much like a wilderness oasis, animals included. Upon our arrival, there was a family of vultures living in the barn and we've often spotted the beautiful red fox that surely helps keep the rabbit population down, but it hasn't seemed to scare off the groundhogs, which became a nuisance when we planted our fall seedlings. After one night of feasting, we realized how big of a problem they were. Within a short amount of time we found the perfect pest control: "Girl Dog." She is the companion to our dear friend John Rogers who is so kindly letting us keep her on the farm during the days. We haven't seen a single groundhog since Girl Dog has joined the crew.

- Dana Blanton, Williams Farm Manager

## Meet "Girl Dog"



# Athens Land Trust

## 2014 Greenfest Awards

ALT volunteer, Ryan Vaughn, received the Wray and Karen Witten Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2014 Greenfest Awards Ceremony held on April 17. Ryan volunteered with the Williams Farm, the West Broad Market Garden, and with the composting program. The award is named after Wray and Karen Witten, who have volunteered many hours since moving to Athens. Ryan currently volunteers as a farm assistant at the Williams Farm. ALT's Donor of the Year is Theresa (Terry) Perenich. Terry is a long-time ALT supporter who made an additional gift for the establishment of trails at the Williams Farm. ALT also recognized the Care Garden of AIDS Athens as our Community Garden of the Year. The garden is lovingly tended by clients and staff and is used for nutrition programs.



*Heather Benham presents Ryan Vaughn his award at the 2014 Greenfest Awards*

## Double Dollars Dinner

On April 27, 40 people attended the Double Dollars Dinner at The National. Chef Peter Dale prepared a delicious meal incorporating produce from ALT's Williams Farm and the West Broad Market Garden. Proceeds from the dinner went to doubling federal and state benefits for nutrition. A total of \$2,200 was raised by the event. Thanks to everyone who attended the dinner, and to Peter for his support of our Community Agriculture Program!

## Al Pless Memorial Ride

On May 17, we celebrated the life of Al Pless, an avid cyclist and longtime supporter of ALT, with a bike ride in his memory. Riders chose from three routes between 25 and 58 miles through Clarke County. Fifty cyclists departed from the ALT office at 9 a.m. and enjoyed perfect weather along their routes. We ended the day with a celebration at Ted's Most Best. The event raised \$2,100 for ALT! We would like to thank everyone who participated and invite you to ride again in 2015!

## Sponsors

Aurum Studios  
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## Harvest Moon Dinner

The seventh annual Harvest Moon Dinner to benefit Athens Land Trust was held on October 18. Despite the threat of rain it turned out to be a beautiful night. This year's event was held at ALT's 5-acre Williams Farm on Ruth Street near downtown Athens. Chef Peter Dale of The National prepared a wonderful dinner of locally-grown fare. Thanks to the generous sponsors and attendees listed below and to the hard work of organizers Tony Eubanks and Lara Mathes, the event raised over \$12,000.

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# Athens Land Trust

Thank you to our partners, members and donors since April 2014!

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Agnes Parker  
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## Al Pless Memorial Bike Ride

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Jeff Bishop  
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Georgia Power  
Laura Morang  
Dayne & Donna Shannon

## Boulevard Woods

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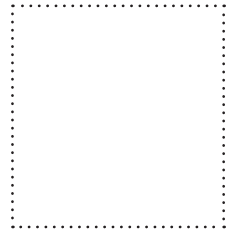
## Thanks also to:

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Athens Land Trust

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www.athenslandtrust.org  
706.613.0122



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## Please Join The Athens Land Trust

Check One of the Following Levels:

- Forest, \$1000 +
- Grove, \$500 +
- Oak, \$250 +
- Seedling, \$100 +
- Acorn, \$75 +
- Family, \$50 +
- Individual, \$10 +

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New

Renewal

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Would you like to join our list serve? Yes  No

Would you like to volunteer? Skills or Interests \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to Athens Land Trust. ALT is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation.  
All donations are tax-deductible, as provided by law.

### Other Ways to Join or Donate:

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