



Newsletter

Spring 2015 • Volume 18 • Issue 1

West Broad Farmers Market Opens May 2nd!

Help us kick off the WBFM's third year of operation on Saturday, May 2nd! This community market, located on the former playground of the historic West Broad School, is cultivating local entrepreneurs and building a neighborhood-based economy. In addition to farm fresh produce, prepared foods, and handmade goods, the market also offers health screenings, nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. By supporting the WBFM, you help to make a positive economic impact on the greater Athens community. This year's market will feature a variety of fresh produce, local eggs, homemade breads, jams and jellies, sweet treats, hand-crafted soaps and other natural bath items, and hot, prepared foods. Members of our Young Urban Farmers Program participate in the market by helping to sell the vegetables they had a hand in growing, as well as one-of-a-kind works of art they've created. On opening day, we're planning a big celebration with music, a bouncy castle, horseback riding, and a demonstration by Canopy Studio. The Market will be open every Saturday through December 12th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at 1573 West Broad Street on the former playground site.



Young Urban Farmers Mikaya Cooler and John Anderson

ALT Awarded Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant

In January, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service announced that we will receive a grant for \$763,000 to carry out conservation partnerships as part of the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). This Farm Bill initiative marks a new era for conservation efforts nationwide. ALT's funding will go toward protection of soil and water quality in the Savannah, Oconee, Ogeechee, Ocmulgee, Satilla and Altamaha watersheds.

We've seen that Georgia is behind the rest of the nation in farmland protection and we know that in part it is because we lack a dedicated funding source to act as match for the federal dollars. We believe that we can help find creative ways for local communities that value farming to create local match that will result in more protected farms in Georgia. Our project will address the natural resource concerns of water quantity and quality, diminishing wildlife habitat, conserving land and water, improving soil health, and supporting the viability of farming. The work will be completed by providing technical assistance to farmers and landowners regarding sustainable livestock production, conservation practices, and USDA programs and resources. ALT will also work toward permanent conservation easements on farmland and financial assistance for farmers through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said, "With so many strong project proposals, the selection process was extremely competitive." More than 600 pre-proposals were submitted for RCPP in 2014. Of those, more than 200 were invited to submit full proposals. A total of 115 projects across all 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will receive more than \$370 million in federal funding -- and an estimated \$400 million more in partner contributions -- to improve the nation's water quality, support wildlife habitat and enhance the environment. RCPP is a 5-year grant. We are excited to be a part of this new initiative which will extend the reach of our work.



National Resource State Conservationist Terrance Rudolph (l) with Heather Benham and Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Robert Bonnie

Athens Land Trust

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Farm Program Assistant, Seth Nivens
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Farmer Outreach Coordinator, Christina Hylton
Williams Farm Manager, Dana Blanton
Project Oversight, George Wright

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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

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Williams Farm Plant Sale
Saturday and Sunday
May 9th & 10th ❖ 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
235 Northside Drive, Athens

This Mother's Day weekend, choose from a variety of perennial, herb and heirloom vegetable plants to add to your garden. Shop for your mom or bring her with you for a stroll around the farm!



Al Pless Memorial Bike Ride

Come join us on Saturday, May 16th to celebrate the life of former ALT Board member and supporter, Al Pless, while riding 61 or 41 beautiful miles through Clarke County, Apple Valley and beyond. All routes depart at 9 a.m. from the Williams Farm and are fully sagged and supported. At the end of the ride, participants are invited to join us for a celebration party at the Williams Farm. Download a registration form at www.athenslandtrust.org.

A Special Thanks...

to Erica McCarthy of Nowhere Productions for creating Miss Ethel's "Virtual Sweet Potato Pie" film fundraiser, and to everyone who made a donation and shared this film. Stay tuned for another Nowhere Productions creation in the near future!

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.

Tuesday Produce Stand at West Broad!

Starting April 14th, farm fresh produce and flowers will be available at the West Broad Market Garden every Tuesday from 4-7 p.m.

SAVE THE DATES!

Community Agriculture Program Fundraiser Dinner

Sunday, May 17th
The National

Harvest Moon

Saturday, October 24th

CSA Membership

Sign up for weekly, fresh produce from the Williams Farm through our Community Supported Agriculture Program! See page 7 for details.

Community Ground Coffee!

Don't forget to pick up a can of ALT's own "Community Ground" coffee! Roasted by Jittery Joe's from a direct trade farm in Nicaragua, this special blend can be purchased from ADD Drugstore, Big City Bread Cafe, Daily Groceries, Heirloom Cafe, Sips Espresso Cafe, and the West Broad Farmers Market. A portion of all sales will be returned to ALT.

Homebuyer Education

Workshops

May 9th & 16th

July 11th & 18th

August 15th & 22nd

12:30pm to 4:30pm

Athens Land Trust Office

685 N. Pope Street



Athens Land Trust

A Message From Our Executive Director

Spring has been good to us thus far -- the farms are lush with plants, and I'm especially excited to see the strawberries that will be in our CSA boxes over the next few weeks. It's a great time to enjoy all that's growing in our gardens, and to tell you about how we're working to grow ALT's Community Agriculture Program. Three years ago, with the help of the school district and community leaders, ALT broke ground on Athens' first-ever community-based urban farm, and in 2013, the West Broad Farmers Market opened with the goal of increasing access to local, healthy food for the community as well as providing economic opportunities for neighborhood residents. Education is a big part of West Broad's mission. We show people how to incorporate fresh, local produce into their diets and teach about the effect that food and farming choices have on health.



We have undoubtedly increased our impact on the community, but there are still a number of unmet needs. We're in the process of installing the infrastructure to support small farmers and entrepreneurs in our region. Our committed Board has laid out a road map for where we want to go and we are implementing a plan to get there, but we need your help. Please spread the word about our work, and if you're not yet a member, please join us. Your support of ALT is an investment in making Athens a great place for all of us to live (as Kathy Hoard so eloquently reiterates, below). I look forward to seeing you at the Market on May 2nd!

-- Heather Benham

Estate Planning for the Future of our Community

I learned of the work of the Athens Land Trust prior to assuming local elected office in 2003. However, as a member of the Athens-Clarke County Commission for twelve years, I had the opportunity to garner a greater awareness of the scope of the Land Trust's mission as a result of partnership opportunities presented to our government by their staff and Board members, and my participation in various events sponsored and supported by this agency. I also took the opportunity to spend some time touring Land Trust projects with Nancy Stangle (who was then Executive Director) and Heather to learn more about them, which took a half-day to accomplish due to the large number and diversity of programs offered.

During my term of office, I connected with the Athens Land Trust on numerous occasions to seek assistance for constituents with a variety of needs and never once was turned away. I cannot recall any occasion in which staff was not helpful in improving the circumstance of a citizen with whom they engaged.



Kathy Hoard (pictured at right) with friend and longtime ALT supporter, Kent Smith

As I began to prepare my will, I thought of the programs in our community that truly make a difference in the lives of their clients and positively affect the quality of life in our community as a whole. The Athens Land Trust was at the top of my list. I have included the Athens Land Trust in my will, as I want to continue to be a part of the meaningful work of this agency, even after my passing. Legacy gifts afford each of us the opportunity to painlessly contribute to the sustainability of the causes we consider important and I would encourage others who share the vision of the Athens Land Trust to remember them in your financial planning goals. What an easy manner this is to impact the future of our wonderful community!

-- Kathy Hoard

For details on how you can include ALT in your estate planning, please contact heather@athenslandtrust.org.

Affordable Housing

New Homes!

After working with ALT to create a custom, zero-step entry Universal Design structure, **Amanda Alford** was thrilled to finally make this home her very own on Friday, January 30th. Universal Design hinges on the idea of tailoring construction to the wide spectrum of human abilities -- creating spaces that can be utilized by the widest range of people possible, including those with disabilities or limited mobility.

"I love everything about my house, but the best thing is that it is completely wheelchair accessible," says Amanda. "I enjoy working with Athens Land Trust because they are there for you even after you close on your house."



New homeowner Amanda Alford on signing day with ALT's Housing Director, David Ogunsanya.

We appreciate First American Bank and Trust for their partnership with us in creating a loan program for our home buyers. Congratulations Amanda!

Ethel Collins, who is a fixture at the West Broad Market Garden and Farmers Market and a driving force in the Waddell community where she's lived for 40 years, was previously renting a home in disrepair. "Miss Ethel" has been living and cooking in this neighborhood for most of her life and was thrilled to move into one of ALT's EarthCraft certified homes on Waddell Street last fall. She is particularly pleased with her central heating, which kept her cozy all winter, and is grateful to know she'll have working air conditioning with summer approaching. Her new house has hardwood floors, two spacious bedrooms, one bathroom, a large front porch, and best of all, a beautiful kitchen to create her culinary masterpieces!



"Miss Ethel" on her new front porch



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.



Housing Grant Awarded

ALT recently received a \$20,000 Catalyzing Impact Grant from the National Community Land Trust Network to support our work in creating permanently affordable housing in Athens. The grant will support ALT's advocacy for the development of an inclusionary zoning program for Athens. Inclusionary zoning works by requiring developers to set aside a percentage of units in new developments for affordable housing. We are excited about the possibility of this in Athens.

Getting to Know ALT Housing Director, David Ogunsanya

What do you actually do?: Manage the construction process of new homes, rehab of older homes, qualify potential buyers, and reach out to educate the public about affordable housing

Best thing about working at ALT: The people I work with and the great work we're doing

Education: BA - North Carolina Central University with major in Business Management and Marketing; MPA - University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs with a focus on Urban Development and Public Policy

Where did you work before ALT?: City First Homes in Washington, D.C.

If you weren't at ALT you'd be... Developing quality and sustainable affordable housing in under-served countries

Favorite restaurant: Athens: Big City Bread; D.C.: The Hamilton

Favorite thing to do when not at work: Build bikes and furniture

What three words describe you best: Passionate, funny, hardworking

Family: Parents, one brother, two sisters, four nephews, three nieces, and fiancé, Kelli

Favorite TV show when you were young: Super Ted and Voltron (I grew up in Nigeria)

Three people (living or dead) you'd like to have dinner with: Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., and Einstein

People would be surprised to know that I... Worked four jobs my senior year in college and graduated on time!

Land Conservation

Meet ALT Conservation Director, Kyle Williams

Kyle grew up in the woods of Southwest Michigan and he's happy to be out in the country again, working to connect people and land. Prior to arriving in Athens, Kyle was a lecturer and designer at Stanford University's Life Design Lab. Before that, Kyle worked as a community forester with the Urban Resources Initiative and as a sustainability metrics researcher for the Yale Office of Sustainability. Kyle holds an MS in Design from Stanford University and an MEd in Urban Ecology from Yale University.



"Thus far, I've been primarily focused on a couple of new programs," says Kyle. "First, I've been helping ALT get ready to hit the ground rolling with our recently awarded RCPP grant, which will enable us to preserve agricultural land and promote sustainable farming practices. Second, I'm working to build a land stewardship program whereby we can bring local young people out onto conserved lands. This program will allow ALT to do important stewardship work here in Athens while growing the next generation of environmental leaders."

Kyle lives in town with his wife, Sarah and their baby daughter, Elsi.

Boulevard Woods Update

The Athens-Clarke County Mayor and Commission voted unanimously on February 3 for construction to begin on Boulevard Woods. The lease agreement that will allow ALT to build the park has been signed, and a contractor has been selected. The 1.79 acre, passive-use park will include a terraced lawn, a community mural, woodland walking trails, trash receptacles, a bike rack, a pet waste station and a preserved tree canopy. The future park site, located within the boundaries of the Historic Boulevard Neighborhood, was donated to the city of Athens by W.H. Benson in 1967 and has been unused since then. This volunteer-led effort to build a distinctive community park has been in the works since 2009, when neighborhood residents were surveyed to gauge interest. The Boulevard Neighborhood Association "adopted" the parcel later that same year, and has been working to make this vision a reality ever since. ALT agreed to help with fundraising in 2010. Thank you to the many donors and volunteers who helped get us to this point!

13,505 Total Acres Protected

ALT protected 1,983 acres of land in 2014, working with three landowners in Barrow, Camden and Hancock Counties, protecting land along the Ogeechee and Satilla Rivers, and Beaverdam Creek, as well as acquiring ALT's first conservation fee simple donation in downtown Winder, GA, which ALT hopes to make accessible as public greenspace. ALT now holds 13,505 acres in conservation easements in a total of 26 counties.

ALT worked again with 2012 conservation easement donor Kevin York, this time to protect 1,484.5 acres of a certified American Tree Farm in Hancock County. In addition to the working forest, the land contains priority habitat such as granite outcrops, bottomland hardwood forests, canebrakes and mesic hardwood forest, and is home to the fox squirrel, a species of concern in Georgia. The Ogeechee River and Beaverdam Creek border the property for 6.5 miles.

ALT also protected 483.5 acres of freshwater emergent and forested/shrub wetlands along 1.2 miles of the Satilla River in Camden County. This land will be preserved and used only for recreation. The forested wetlands also provide important roosting sites for the Swallow-tailed Kites, and the federally listed Wood Stork and Bald Eagle.

Protected with a fee simple donation is a 15-acre tract in a commercial area of downtown Winder. This property possesses natural habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants, and includes freshwater emergent wetland and a Blue Line Stream which flows southeast through the property, emptying into the lake at Fort Yargo State Park. ALT is working on improving the site as valuable public greenspace in an otherwise developed area, sheltering small animals, migrating and resident songbirds, and providing visual relief for people in the area.



This 4.5 acre lake is part of the York-Hancock conservation easement which consists of 1484 acres of American Tree Farm.

Community Agriculture

ALT Awarded Grants and Donations to Fund Nutrition and Health Education

In February, ALT was presented with \$20,000 from the Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation to continue and expand our nutrition education activities. This Foundation's mission is to honor the Fitzgeralds, who lived in Atlanta, by making a difference in the lives of others, primarily through the education and health care of disadvantaged residents of Georgia and Metro Atlanta. This grant will go towards nutrition education activities at the West Broad Farmers Market.

In January, ALT received a \$5,000 Turner Family Foundation grant to support our Young Urban Farmer Program and two Americorps VISTA FoodCorps Service Members who will continue to work with Clarke County youth. The Turner Family Foundation is specific to programs involved in child and animal welfare, civic, health, or educational activities within the Northeast Georgia area. ALT additionally received a generous anonymous donation for \$5,000 that will also go to our FoodCorps Service Members' work.



YUF students Temo Felix, Eddie Olivo, Justin Alvarado, and ALT Farm Program Assistant, Seth Nivens, mulching at the West Broad Market Garden

Young Urban Farmer Program (YUF)

The Y.U.F. put in a great deal of work this winter preparing beds at the West Broad Market Garden for spring planting -- weeding, broad-forking and spreading compost, as well as clearing brush, tearing down worn out structures and hauling away trash and unusable lumber. Areas were cleared to expand the garden and to make space for chickens. These students also spent three hours each Saturday for six weeks engaged in a Cooking Matters course led by YUF Program Coordinator, Nathalie Celestin, and Farm to School Coordinator, Amber Flanigan. This course gave the Y.U.F. a look into the other side of sustainable agriculture and food systems. They were taught how to cook nutritious meals by learning basic culinary skills and nutrition information. They learned how to shop

at a grocery store and how to use the resources around them to make healthy choices. A **special thanks** to the **East Georgia Cancer Coalition** for sending each student home with the ingredients needed to prepare a meal; **Ebenezer Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church** and **Redeemer Church** for use of their kitchens; and the Alps Road **Kroger** for allowing the Y.U.F. to tour the store.

On February 21, the Y.U.F. attended the Georgia Organics Conference at The Classic Center, which was an opportunity for students to network and hear from farmers, chefs, teachers, students and community activists working towards a better food movement. Two of our very own students, John Anderson and Alexa Slaboda, took the stage to share their food journey. John gave a presentation at the Farm to School Summit, and Alexa was on the "Young Leaders in Good Food" panel. Both students spoke about their experience with the Young Urban Farmer Program and the impact they aspire to have in this movement.

The Y.U.F. have been preparing for their business presentations, which will take place on Thursday, April 30th at 6 p.m. at the Athens Community Career Academy. Students will share their experiences with the program and showcase their personal projects including mushroom logs, vermicompost, soaps, mason jar art, garden photography, birdhouses, and flower arrangements. These one-of-a-kind creations will be available for sale at the West Broad Farmers Market on opening day!



The Young Urban Farmer spring 2015 class posing at the West Broad Market Garden

Community Agriculture

Community Supported Agriculture Memberships

There's still time to sign up for our Certified Naturally Grown CSA memberships featuring seasonal produce from the Williams Farm. Sign up for our fall session now, which will run from **August 18th-December 15th**. The cost is \$450 (\$25 per week). We're also offering flower shares for \$91 from **May 19th-August 11th**. Enjoy fresh, locally-grown bouquets all summer long! CSA pick-up is conveniently located at the West Broad Market Garden during market hours on Saturdays (10-2p.m.) or on Tuesdays (4-7p.m.). All proceeds from our CSA program will go towards supporting our ongoing projects at Williams Farm and the West Broad Garden.



Williams Farm

Second Saturday Farm Work Days!

Come see what's growing on the Williams Farm and get your hands dirty while learning something along the way. Every second Saturday of each month, from 9 a.m. until noon, we invite you to come out and help our farm manager, Dana Blanton, with farm chores. Please wear appropriate protective clothing and bring a pair of gloves, and a friend! Mark your calendar now with these upcoming dates:

May 9th
June 13th
July 11th
August 8th
September 12th

235 Northside Drive, Athens

Vendor Development and Farmer Outreach Business Courses

In February, our Community Agriculture Program launched a "Grow Your Business" class for the third year in a row. This series of 8 workshops is part of a broader vendor development program designed to recruit and support beginning entrepreneurs through the West Broad Farmers Market. Thirteen people have participated so far this year, and we have had some lively conversations! This group knows what they want and are eager to learn. Dr. Rich McCline of the Fanning Institute opened up our series to help the group gain a better understanding of what it really means to be an entrepreneur and the importance of knowing what success means to an individual personally before deciding to be a business owner. The next class covered the importance of developing a "business perspective" that ties together a vision, operating principles, operational systems, and culture in a way that achieves the results that you are looking for. In the weeks to come writer Amy Flurry (amyflurry.com), web designer Jason Davis (Picobarn.com), and Michele Pearson with Edward Jones will all be sharing their expertise with us.

The ALT Farmer Outreach Program hosted a "Grow Your Farm Business" workshop series beginning in January. The first session gave farmers the opportunity to learn more about software programs to help with keeping farm business records. Additional classes included Marketing Strategies; Introductions to Business Planning; Building a Diversified Market with Value Added Products; Diversify your Farm with Sustainable Livestock Farming; Completing Your Business Plan for EQUIP and FSA support; Extending Your Farming Season with High Tunnels; and Farming with Pollinators. Special thanks to our supporters and guest speakers: Willa Fambrough; Fort Valley State University Mobile Unit; Dr. Kent Wolfe; Craig Scroggs and Philip Brown from NRCS; Jeff Aaron, Oglethorpe Cooperative Extension; and ALT intern, Meg Ward.



Philip Brown from NRCS presenting on native grazing for livestock

Community Agriculture

ALT Voted “Crowd Favorite” at the School Lunch Challenge!

On Saturday, March 28th, ALT staff participated in the School Lunch Challenge held at Barrow Elementary School where four teams, each representing a Clarke County school, vied to create the most appealing lunch tray while meeting USDA guidelines for the National School



ALT's Amber Flanigan and Connie Roberts with Clarke Central Nutrition staff and their School Lunch Challenge award

Lunch Program. ALT teamed up with Clarke Central High School to face local chefs from The National, Heirloom Cafe, and Goodie Two Shoes. Although a panel of judges voted The National's deluxe chicken burrito as the overall favorite, our chickpea veggie burgers and zucchini fries we were named the “Crowd Favorite.” “I had such a wonderful time creating a dish with the talented and hardworking Clarke Central High School cafeteria staff,” said ALT's Connie Roberts, who is also a FoodCorps Service Member. “I believe nothing brings people closer than cooking together, and I think the four of us would agree that cooking for 150 people in a small cafeteria kitchen we were sharing with 15 competitors with a two-hour time limit allowed us to get to know one another pretty fast! It was hot, hectic, and a whole lot of fun!” Our dish was such a hit that it will be served in Clarke County cafeterias next school year!

Chickpea Veggie Burgers (serves 4)

Ingredients:	1 teaspoon cumin
1 ½ cups canned chickpeas, rinsed and drained	1 teaspoon garlic herb seasoning
1 egg	1 tablespoon Sriracha
½ cup whole wheat flour	1 tablespoon maple syrup
1 cup bread crumbs	1 tablespoon liquid smoke
½ cup shredded carrots	1 tablespoon olive oil
½ cup fresh parsley leaves	Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. In a food processor, blend chickpeas, egg, carrots, parsley, flour, cumin, garlic herb seasoning, Sriracha, maple syrup, liquid smoke, salt and pepper until smooth.
2. Spray a cookie sheet with non-stick cooking spray.
3. Form chickpea mixture into 4 patties, about ½ inch thick and 3 inches across.
4. Coat each side of the patty with bread crumbs. Place patties on cooking sheet.
5. Cook patties in skillet over medium heat until golden brown on each side, approximately 3-5 minutes. Serve on toasted burger buns.

New Garden Installed at Clarke County School Nutrition Office

As part of the Farm to School Summit, the Athens Land Trust sponsored an herb garden installation at the Clarke County School Nutrition Office. The garden, named Paradise Herb Garden, is the first garden of its kind in Georgia. The herbs grown in this garden will be used in school lunches as part of the low-salt initiative and the garden space will be used as an education demonstration site for school nutrition staff. The materials and labor for the raised beds were donated by Chris McDowell and UGA's Material Reuse Program.



MLK Day of Service

Together with our wonderful volunteers, we made a tremendous impact at our MLK Day of Service project sites. At the West Broad Market Garden, over 100 volunteers weeded and mulched, cleared the terrace, and opened up more planting space on Paris Street. Members of the Young Urban Farmer program gave tours of the garden. The compost system was also reorganized and four ordinary rain barrels were transformed into extraordinary works of art! At the Williams Farm, a crew of about 50 did a LOT of weeding and compost-spreading. Thanks to ALL the volunteers who came out and made it a productive day ON!



Athens Land Trust

Staff News

Sara Fleetwood joined ALT as Volunteer Coordinator (and Americorps VISTA Service Member) in March. Sara was born and raised in rural South Georgia. After finishing her degree in fine art Sara took a job as volunteer coordinator for a nonprofit in Tanzania where she furthered her love of connecting people with causes they believe in. Since then, Sara has worked for many non-profits in a variety of fields from art education and outdoor learning, to cooking and farming. Sara hopes to bring her passion for food justice, farming, community development and volunteerism to ALT to help create a new and improved volunteer program. When not working with volunteers, Sara can be found playing in her garden, backpacking, or cooking while listening to Motown.



Sara Fleetwood

Kaela Horne was recently hired as our West Broad Farmers Market Manager for the 2015 season. **Kyle Williams** was hired as ALT's Conservation Director in December. (See page 5 for more about Kyle.) **Lorinda Crane**, who most recently served as CFO for Epting Events here in Athens, has replaced **Nathan Shannon** as ALT's Director of Operations. Nathan has taken a position as Development Director with Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative in Atlanta. Nathan started with ALT in 2009 as an intern, and since then has worn many hats! He will truly be missed. Congratulations and best wishes, Nathan!

ALT's homeownership coordinator, **Shavon Echols**, left at the end of January in order to become a full time realtor, and ALT's Local Food Programs Coordinator, **Almeta Tulloss**, left in March to begin work with local chef Hugh Acheson's non-profit venture. We will miss both of these exuberant women who brought so much to ALT. We wish them the best of luck as they go forward.

We are grateful for our current UGA student interns who are assisting with our programs. **Christine Wright** and **Rob Wilson**, who are both MSW students, are working on empowerment activities and community building with residents of 4th Street Village. **Brittney Parks**, a third year law school student, is working on contract review and property tax research, drafting policy manuals, and editing and reviewing legal documents for our Housing Program. Several additional MSW student interns are assisting our Community Agriculture Program, including **Kristin Andrews**, who's working with our Young Urban Farmers Program, **Xue Cui**, who's revising our West Broad Farmers Market manual, and **Caitlin Martin**, who is helping with the Community Garden Network as well as the planning of our youth summer camp. **Meg Ward**, a human development and family science student interested in local food, farming methods, food access, and nutrition, is also contributing a great deal to our Community Agriculture Program. **Gloria Jen**, a masters student in advertising and public relations, is working to promote the West Broad Farmers Market, and **Will McCracken**, who's earning an M.A. in non-profit organizations, is also assisting with the West Broad Farmers Market.

Board News

On Saturday, February 28th, the ALT Board and select staff had a day-long retreat where we discussed ALT's future and revisited our Strategic Plan, which will be posted on our website soon. Early this year, the Board voted in two new members: **Willa Fambrough**, who owns a baking business and has been a vendor at the West Broad Farmers Market for the past two years, and **Dan Lorentz**, past chair of the Boulevard Woods Neighborhood Association's park standing committee. **Lara Mathes** has stepped up to serve as president and **Kirrena Gallagher** has replaced Angela Johnson as Vice President. After 10 years of service, **Gregg Bayard** stepped down from the Board. We appreciate his many years of guidance and support.

Volunteer with ALT!

The Land Trust is in constant need of volunteers from the community who are interested in making Athens a better place by donating their time and talents. With our Volunteer Coordinator, Sara Fleetwood, in place, we hope to provide valuable volunteer experiences in the areas of gardening, education, farmers markets, affordable housing, conservation, urban farming, and ALT events. Keep your eye out for a new and expanded volunteer calendar on our website and let us know how you or your organization would like to get involved! Email: sara@athenslandtrust.org. Thank you to current conservation volunteer and attorney, **Eric Uhls**, who's helping with legal research and drafting!

Athens Land Trust

Q&A With ALT Board President, Lara Mathes

Q: What led you to become involved with the Athens Land Trust?

LM: I became involved with ALT around 2004. I had recently moved back to Athens from graduate school in Virginia, where I had been involved in both affordable housing and land conservation efforts. Back in Athens, I was working in the ACC Planning Department where I saw firsthand how development pressures were creating the same community quality of life challenges that they had in Virginia, straining the supply of affordable housing while simultaneously eroding habitat and contiguous open spaces with tract housing developments. My friend, Gregg Bayard, was an ALT board member and, knowing our common interests, he asked me to get involved.



Lara Mathes

Q: Why do you support the Athens Land Trust?

LM: I continue to support ALT because I believe in what we do and think we help make our community a better place. Balancing resources to maximize community benefit is the crux of what makes ALT's work so exciting and unique. Working within the land trust model, we are able to overcome the market pressures that otherwise limit land available for those functions that make every community great: Quality housing for every income range; high quality habitat and green space; and productive local agriculture.

Q: What are your goals and/or aspirations for ALT?

LM: I would like to see ALT complete its model project at Ruth Street, where a neighborhood green space under conservation easement adjoins both a thriving urban farm and our upcoming mixed-income infill housing project. I'd also like to see ALT as a long-term partner in the revitalization of the West Broad Street School and surrounding area. Finally, I'd like ALT to build and diversify capacity to sustain housing, conservation and community agriculture programs.

Q: What do you wish more people knew about the Athens Land Trust?

LM: People tend to think about ALT as an affordable housing organization, or a land conservation organization, or a community agriculture organization -- whichever program by which they came to know ALT. I'd like to increase understanding of our overarching mission to be a trust for land, to support the critical functions that sustain community, and that, rather than any individual program, the pursuit of this balance is what makes us the Athens Land Trust.

Upcountry Oyster Roast



The fourth annual Upcountry Oyster Roast was held on Sunday, March 29th on Lee Moody's property, The Portico, in Good Hope. The Dixieland Five made a return with their toe-tapping music, and Goodie Two Shoes catered fantastic food to pair with the oysters, which came from Sapelo Sea Farms. A beautiful dessert spread was provided by Marti's at Midday. Apart from enjoying the views around the pond, guests walked down to the Apalachee River and enjoyed the sunny afternoon. Dave Anderson, who bought the Langdale Conservation Easement property last year, talked briefly about his history with the Langdales, his knowledge of the land, and about the importance of protecting the land from development. Dave also spoke about his plans for replanting trees and restocking the pond. Dave will continue to work with NRCS on the management of his land. A big thanks to Deborah Sheppard, who handled the oyster roasters this year, as well as to all attendees!



Athens Land Trust

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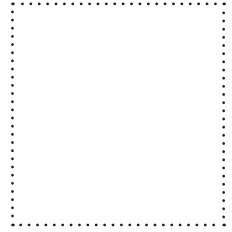


Timi Conley (at right) of Athens Wild Rumpus Parade presents ALT staff with a check for \$1,500, raised by last year's event. Thanks Timi and all the Rumpus supporters!



Athens Land Trust

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