



*Athens Land Trust*  
Land for Conservation & Community  
685 N. Pope Street • Athens, Georgia 30601  
[www.athenslandtrust.org](http://www.athenslandtrust.org)  
706.613.0122

Newsletter  
Spring 2019 • Volume 22 • Issue 1

# *Community* **CARNIVAL!**

AT THE WEST BROAD MARKET GARDEN

Athens Land Trust is celebrating our 25th anniversary this year! Since 1994, we have been working with communities in Athens and throughout the state of Georgia to promote a holistic approach to land use that provides opportunities for homeownership, conserves land for generations to come, and expands access to healthy, affordable food. Without strong partnerships with neighborhood residents, families, local businesses, and institutions, this long-term work in Athens and beyond would not be possible. Whether you have been with us since the beginning or have newly joined, we are grateful for your dedication to creating stronger, healthier, and more sustainable communities.

This shared commitment is the inspiration behind the **Community Carnival at West Broad**, a one-of-a-kind community celebration taking place on Saturday, **June 1st from 12-8pm**. This family friendly, block party style festival will feature rides, games, prizes, face painting, music, dance performances, West Broad Farmers Market (WBFM) vendors, local Athens food trucks, and more! Much like the WBFM, we envision the Carnival as a space for the whole community to come together and share in the joy and gratitude we feel for the progress that has been made and the relationships that have been built along the way. This event is about giving thanks and celebrating 25 years of working together, as a community, to achieve a thriving and prosperous Athens for all. We can't wait to see you there!



# Athens Land Trust

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

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Project Oversight • George Wright

## Upcoming Events and Announcements



**May 4 - December 14, 2019**  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Opening Day: May Day/ Alumni Day Celebration**  
May 4, 2019  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Juneteenth Celebration**  
June 15, 2019  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**DAWG Days of Summer**  
July 13, 2019  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Health & Wellness Day**  
August 17, 2019  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

We are proud to be a host site for AmeriCorps VISTA service members.



The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Athens Land Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of accreditation. A public comment period is now open. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how ALT complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>. To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org), or email your comment to [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org). Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Please submit comments by September 12, 2019.

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



Register now for ALT's two-week summer camp, where kids ages 8-12 will learn about food, farming, and community building! Camp will take place the weeks June 17th - June 24th. Sliding scale tuition and full scholarships available. Email [travis@athenslandtrust.org](mailto:travis@athenslandtrust.org) for more information.

## Homebuyer Education & Credit Seminars

May 18, 2019: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

June 8, 2019: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

July 20, 2019: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



**HARVEST MOON**  
Coming This Fall: Harvest Moon 2019  
Williams Farm

# Athens Land Trust

## West Broad Farmers Market Opens May 4th



WBFM attendees enjoy a Saturday morning at the Market.



The market features fresh produce, prepared foods, and artisan goods from many talented local vendors.



The Maypole dedication celebrates the historic West Broad School and marks the start of the market season.



Marissa Joyner giving a cooking demo at the Market.

We are so excited for the seventh season of the West Broad Farmers Market, which will kick off with an **Opening Day May Day Celebration** on Saturday, May 4th. This Market season will feature farm fresh produce, artisanal treats, and hand-crafted gifts from your favorite returning vendors in addition to brand-new vendors. Every week attendees will be able to enjoy live music, family friendly activities, educational programs in the garden, and cooking demonstrations.

Not only does the West Broad Farmers Market aim to improve community health and wellness through access to fresh, local produce, it is also growing the neighborhood economy by providing a space for local farmers and vendors to promote their businesses. ALT's eight-week **Grow Your Business (GYB)** program is currently underway, providing free small business development training to beginning and limited-resource entrepreneurs. Once the class is over, participants will have a completed business plan to help them start or advance their business. We are excited to see graduates of our GYB class debut at Opening Day of the Market this year!

Since 2015, WBFM has been a Market Partner of **Wholesome Wave Georgia**. With support from this partnership, we are able to match thousands of dollars spent on fresh local produce for customers receiving SNAP benefits through the **Georgia Fresh for Less program**. On February 24th, we raised vital funds at our annual fundraising dinner, **Cultivating Community**, to support this program which helps ensure healthy produce is available to all members of our community! Young Urban Farmers Jamal Mattox, Jiamya Fisher, and Zakiya Moffett had the chance to work with **Chef Peter Dale** of **The National** to prepare this multi-course, fine dining experience.

As the new Market season approaches, we remember Marissa Joyner's huge heart and radiant spirit. On Saturdays you could find her at the Market sharing her passion for healthy eating through cooking demonstrations or selling her DC Famous Dogs. Marissa was a warrior for the community, and we are lucky to have known such a beautiful soul. We hope to keep her spirit alive in our work and commitment to the Athens community. Thanks to all who donated to the scholarship fund in her name to support her family. Donors are acknowledged on page 11.

# Athens Land Trust

## Homeownership Gives Stability to Families

In March, we celebrated the first closing of 2019. Rosie Hosendove, a previous lease purchaser, closed on her home in the Cottages at Cannontown. Like many homeowners, Rosie and her family moved many times while preparing to buy a home and they are excited to finally have a place to settle down and call their own. Rosie has worked extremely hard to accomplish her goal of homeownership. Congratulations!



**We are grateful for our local partners who lent their expertise to our recent homebuyer education classes:**

- Shelly ElFil**—SAT Lending
- Jolanda Rickett**—Keller Williams Realty
- Denise Alcorn**—MiMutual Mortgage
- Warren Alcorn**—MiMutual Mortgage
- Yoshalyn Rowland-Neal**—Greater Athens Properties
- Stephanie Coney**—London Consulting & Insurance Firm
- Develon Davis**—Peach State Federal Credit Union
- Mike Paulk**—Brand Mortgage
- Mitchell Amat**—O'Kelley & Sorohan
- Dexter Haynes**—Signature Real Estate of Athens
- Debora J. O'Neal**—Keller Williams

## Unique, All-Affordable Subdivision Complete



The Cottages at Cannontown.

In December of 2018, we finished the final phase of the Cottages at Cannontown, a project that began in 2013. This **15-unit EarthCraft certified subdivision** is one-of-a-kind in Athens Clarke County, providing 15 families with healthy, sustainable and affordable homeownership opportunities. Construction took place in five phases, with three homes under construction at a time over the past five years.



Soon-to-be affordable housing under construction at Henderson Extension!

Not much time goes by without a new construction or rehabilitation project underway at ALT. Thanks to HOME funding through Athens Clarke County Housing and Community Development, we are midway through three new single-family construction projects. By the end of the summer, ALT will have added two new homes on Henderson Extension in the West Broad neighborhood, and one new home on Head St. in East Athens. To date, ALT has **41** homeowners and **16** lease purchasers who are working towards homeownership.

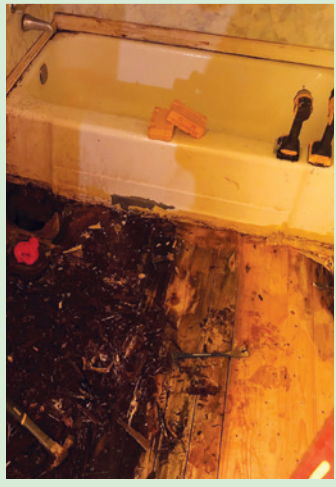


Funding made available for these affordable housing projects by Athens-Clarke County Department of Housing and Community Development HOME and CDBG Programs of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, an Equal Opportunity Employer. Participants will not be discriminated against based on race, color, religion, disability, familial status, or national origin.



# Athens Land Trust

## The Young Urban Builders Make Strides in Home Repair Projects



Before and after: A bathroom repair completed by YUB students.



YUB coordinator Lawrence Jones instructs the students on a porch repair project.

**The Young Urban Builders (YUB) program** continues to make progress rehabilitating owner-occupied homes in the West Broad neighborhood. Our YUB students have successfully completed several projects with many more underway, and are learning a variety of construction skills in the process. The majority of homeowners registered for this program are in need of significant repairs including entirely new roofing, foundation support, and new flooring systems. In early 2019, YUB students responded to an emergency request in which a resident was forced to move from her home due to major damage from water leaks. The repairs provided by YUB helped her return home to a much safer and more efficient bathroom.

## Assisting Home and Business Owners Through Financial Counseling



Melanie Burton (middle), a CFG program participant, celebrates becoming a homeowner.

The most recent census data reports over 60% of Athens-Clarke County households are cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Homeownership is a tool to lessen this burden. ALT's **Credit & Financial Growth Program (CFG)** was established to provide households with high-quality education and counseling to inform them of all of their housing options and assist them through the home buying process. Our CFG program strives to alleviate wealth disparities and build equity by increasing the number of homeowners and business owners in Athens and surrounding areas. We offer an array of financial services (credit repair, financial management, housing counseling, etc.) designed to create a financially fit community made up of individuals who are well prepared to make sound financial decisions leading to home or business ownership.

**Yyokkia Lawson**, Director of Credit & Financial Growth, says the ultimate objective is to engage clients in a positive and supportive manner that helps them meet whatever financial goal they have in mind. Melanie Burton, a CFG client who recently purchased a home through the USDA Rural Development program, says "I am so grateful for everything [ALT] put into that first-time home buyers class and that business class. I wouldn't be here without them. Keep up the great work."

# Athens Land Trust

## ALT Conserves 525 New Acres of High Quality, Prime Soil Farmland

In 2018, our Conservation Program protected four Oconee County farms, or nearly 210 acres altogether, as part of the **ACEP-ALE** (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Agricultural Land Easement) program. ACEP-ALE is a voluntary program of the **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**, which protects high quality agricultural lands by limiting non-agricultural uses through the purchase of development rights through conservation easements. ALT—which has been NRCS-certified since 2017, allowing us to fast-track ACEP-ALE projects—holds the conservation easements in perpetuity.



Rollins Easement in Oconee County, Georgia.

This newly protected land in Oconee County includes **60 acres** of a cattle and hay farm, with natural hardwood forests, with 990 feet of a tributary to Wolf Creek. Another farm protected comprises **51.1 acres** of a larger farm, also with cattle and hay pastures. The property contains **3.5 acres** of non-wetland forest, used for silvopasture. A third farm property protected adds **62.5 acres to 91.5 acres** already preserved for agricultural use in perpetuity. This cattle farm comprises seven acres of natural hardwood forest on the property, also used for silvopasture, and has been used for educational and research purposes. The fourth ACEP-ALE farm protected comprises more than **35 acres** of a cattle and hay farm. All of these farms have high quality prime soils and soils of statewide importance. Since 2004 we have protected almost **980 acres** under ACEP-ALE and its predecessor program!



Farmington Ridge Easement in Oconee County, Georgia.

Additionally, ALT worked to protect two properties in Morgan County. One project permanently protects nearly **115 acres** of Oak-Hickory-Pine Forest, Bottomland Hardwood Forest, wetlands and a Blue Line Stream, as well as agricultural pastures and food plots just south of Madison. Pine management as well as agriculture and passive recreation will be allowed on the land. A further **200 acres**, part of a larger farm operation, were also protected in Morgan County. This project protects **1.3 miles** of Blue Line Streams and **3.4 acres** of wetlands, as well as Bottomland Hardwood Forests, Mesic Hardwood Forests, Canebrakes, Granite Outcrops, Springs and Spring Runs, Oak-Hickory-Pine Forest, and Streams, with cattle pastures and managed pine.



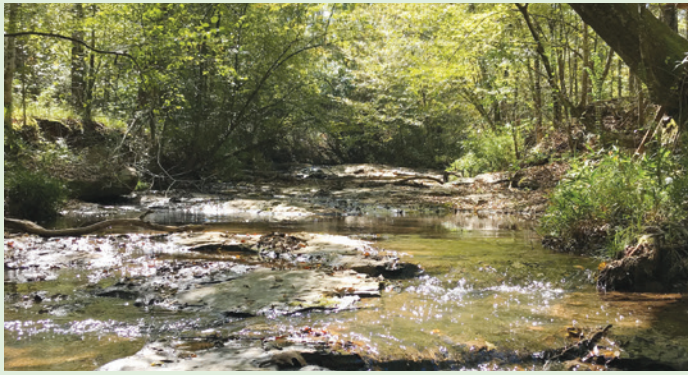
McClure Easement in Oconee County, Georgia.



House Easement in Oconee County, Georgia.

*(photos continued on page 7).*

# Athens Land Trust



Briar Creek Easement in Morgan County, Georgia.



Little Sugar Creek Easement in Morgan County, Georgia.

## Oyster Roast



2019 attendees enjoy fresh oysters.

On March 31st, conservation partners and landowners came together with ALT on the grounds of the Portico in Good Hope, Georgia to commemorate our recent conservation achievements, including the protection of **17,010** acres across **36 counties** in Georgia! Guests celebrated with all-you-can-enjoy oysters and clams from Sapelo Sea Farms and roasted by LRG Provisions and Mike Malcolm, as well as locally-made foods and desserts prepared by Donderos' Kitchen, icook\_foryou, Independent Bakery, the Fresh Market, Terrapin Beer Co., Walter and Dorothy O'Niell, and ALT's YUF Thanks to all who made this an incredibly successful Oyster Roast!

## ALT Celebrates Partners of the Year

ALT joined ACC government and Athens-area organizations to honor our community's environmental leaders at the 2019 GreenLife Expo & Awards. We awarded three outstanding community members with Partner of the Year awards: **Gary Crider** for his dedication to invasive species removal in local parks and greenspace and for sharing his expertise with YCS students; **Quaison Payne** of **Payne Construction Group** for his generous support of the YUB program and being a mentor to the students; and **Chef Emmanuel Stone** of **Athens Community Career Academy** for his contribution to YUF participants' exposure to culinary arts. YUF also hosted an educational cooking demonstration for Expo attendees. See what else our youth program participants are up to on page 8!



Manny Stone receives his award at the 2019 Expo in February.



Gary Crider and YCS students (Photo courtesy of Joshua L. Jones/Athens Banner-Herald).



Quaison Payne discusses blueprints for a new project with YUB students.

# Athens Land Trust

## Community Gardens Thrive with Help from YUF & YCS



Volunteers at Athena Gardens in February.



A volunteer at Mae Willie Morton Garden assists in building raised garden beds.

Thanks to the Community Garden Network (CGN), communities around Athens are benefiting from access to growing plots and tranquil space. CGN Coordinator Julian Green is working with ten community gardens in Clarke County. Each garden's mission and goals are unique to its community, which is a great representation of the diversity of Athens. We are currently partnering with **Piedmont College** so students and professors can grow food for the Food Bank's fresh produce program. At **Pinewoods Community Garden**, residents are growing peppers and spices, and plans are underway to reconstruct a traditional earth oven for neighborhood events. Accessible raised beds are being constructed at **Athena Gardens**, an affordable senior housing complex. Thanks to a generous \$500 grant from the **Last Resort Grill LRGreen Project**, Athena Gardens residents will continue to have opportunities to grow their own food and build community through gardening. Thank you also to **MLK, Jr. Day of Service Steering Committee** for their contribution of \$500 to support our gardens! Our YUF have been hard at work revamping the **Mae Willie Morton Garden**. Located on a lot once notorious for drug activity, this garden now serves as a space for neighbors to come together. We are able to revitalize this valuable green space thanks to a \$1,500 grant from the **Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District**. In addition to adding a walkway, YUF have worked to repaint the shed, break down old garden beds and reconstruct new ones. YCS will join them to plant native Georgia plants and cultivate a harvest for the community. These projects and more will continue throughout the spring, so be on the lookout for community work days! If you would like more information about the CGN or would like to participate please contact [julian@athenslandtrust.org](mailto:julian@athenslandtrust.org).

## Farmer Network Connects Local Growers

ALT's Farmer Network is dedicated to connecting farmers with resources and tools necessary to succeed. With the **Spring Farm Share** and **Farmers Market season** just getting into the swing of things, farmers within our Network are in the midst of a heavy growing season and we are working with them to make this a productive year! We've seen an influx in the number of farmers and growers interested in our program since hosting our January Farmer Network Meeting, which featured well known farmer **Brennan Washington** from Southern Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education (SARE). In March, we were proud to partner with **Avid Bookshop** to host *Farming While Black* author **Leah Penniman** at the Athens-Clarke County Library. In her book, Penniman shares her wisdom from creating Soul Fire Farm—a passion project connecting the fight against racial injustice to farming and food systems. Our Farmer Network, along with our YUF, had the opportunity to conduct a private Q&A session with Ms. Penniman before her public event. We are eagerly anticipating more workshops and farmer meetings as the Spring growing season progresses. Stay tuned!



Leah Penniman with Assistant Farm Manager Xavier Coates on a visit to the West Broad Garden.

# Athens Land Trust

## Honoring MLK, Jr. with Service and Celebration

Thank you to the 200+ Athenians who braved the cold to make this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with Athens Land Trust one for the books! In conjunction with the Athens-wide MLK Day of Service event, ALT hosted volunteers at four sites: Beech Haven, Mae Willie Morton Garden, Athena Gardens, and the West Broad Garden. Volunteers accomplished an array of tasks including removing an entire **acre of invasive species**, planting **500 native trees** and **300 native grass plugs**, building accessible raised beds, mulching, raking, and much more to restore the health and beauty of these invaluable community spaces. After working hard through the morning, volunteers and community partners gathered at West Broad to celebrate Dr. King's legacy. Special thanks to **Montu Miller** for coordinating the celebration; our host **Celest Ngeve**; guest speaker **Dunta Robinson; DJ Kountry**; and our outstanding performers: **We're Weird, Cassie Chantel, Kxng Blanco, and Stella Groove.**



## Volunteers and Interns Make a Difference



Students from UGA's IMPACT Alternative Breaks Program volunteer at the West Broad Garden.

We are grateful for our volunteers who donate their time and energy to ALT! Volunteers from **UGA's IMPACT Alternative Breaks Program** and **ServeUGA's Interfaith Day of Service** helped beautify the West Broad and Salvation Army HOPE Gardens by picking up litter, weeding, trimming hedges, and re-stripping parking spaces on Minor St. Since January, **over 80** volunteers have served with the Community Garden Network, helping gardens all around Athens get ready for the growing season! Finally, thank you to the community members and students from **UGA Professor David Berle's Horticulture 2000 class** who volunteered for Second Saturday at Williams Farm. They prepared the soil for growing mushrooms and other plants, weeded the herb garden, and painted the outside of the newly enclosed processing room.

Huge thanks to our wonderful interns this semester! Conservation intern **Isaac Schmidt** is helping ALT improve communication and stewardship through technology. Williams Farm interns **Nirad Kavoori, Matthew Molini, Macy Bazzell, and Avery Tew** are helping prepare the Spring Farm Share. **Harrison Britt** is supporting farmer outreach activities. **Morgan Watson, Jeana Rose Rigdon, and Ellen Farmer** support West Broad Garden activities and lend their skills to special projects. Affordable Housing intern **Ayodele Dare** is helping address administrative and organizational needs. Credit & Financial Growth intern **Jake Taylor** is strengthening development activities and **Brittany Adams**, a community volunteer, is providing administrative support, including maintenance of client files and coordinating program workshops.

# Athens Land Trust

Thank you to our partners, members and donors!

## SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS AND PARTNERS

Athens Clarke County  
Athens Area Black History  
Committee  
Athens Area Community  
Foundation  
Athens Housing Authority  
Bank of America  
Clarke County School  
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Gloria Bizzle  
Heather Bray  
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# Athens Land Trust

Thank you to our partners, members and donors!

Kelli Dwyer  
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Usha Rodrigues  
Ovita Thornton  
Eadaoin Walker  
Amanda Wallace  
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## **FAMILY \$50 +**

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in honor of Adeline Holt  
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