



Savannah Tree Foundation

Preserving, Protecting and Planting Trees for 25 Years

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The Savannah Tree Foundation is a privately funded non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, through direct action and education, an awareness of trees, particularly the Live Oak, as vital resources and an important part of our heritage. The foundation preserves, nurtures, and plants trees to enhance the quality of life for present & future generations.

Cover design: **Old Oak in Candler Hospital Grounds, Savannah, Georgia**
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Past Presidents

Kacey Ratterree

Beth Glass

Julia S. White

Page A. Hungerpiller

Dale Thorpe

The following people have graciously served on the Board of Directors since our founding:

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**Thank you to each of the countless
community volunteers and donors who have
helped us achieve all of these great
accomplishments over the years.**

***We could not have done it
without your tireless support!***



Founders

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**Trees: Growing Stronger and
Healthier Communities**

a lecture by Dr. Kathleen Wolf, Research Social Scientist,
College of Forest Resources, University of Washington

**Tuesday, February 19, 2008
seven o'clock in the evening
Coastal Georgia Center**

Program

Opening Remarks

Mrs. Diane Houston, President

Introduction of Dr. Kathy Wolf

Mrs. Dale Thorpe, Past President

Keynote Lecture

Dr. Kathy Wolf

Closing Remarks

Mrs. Page A. Hungerpiller, Founder

***This evening has been made possible
in part by a "Done in a Day" grant from
the Junior League of Savannah.***



Dr. Kathleen Wolf

Dr. Kathleen L. Wolf is a Research Social Scientist at the College of Forest Resources, University of Washington, and does research in environmental psychology. She has worked professionally as both a landscape architect and as an environmental planner. Since receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, Dr. Wolf has done research to better understand the human dimensions of urban forestry and urban ecosystems. Kathy's professional mission is to discover, understand and communicate human behavior and benefits, as people experience nature in urban settings. Moreover, Kathy is interested in how scientific information can be integrated into local government policy and planning.

She is a member of the Environmental Design Research Association, International Association for Society and Natural Resources, the Society of American Foresters, Washington State Community Forestry Council, and the City of Bainbridge Island Community Forestry Commission. Dr Wolf has presented her research throughout the United States, in Canada, Europe, Australia and Japan.

An overview of Dr. Wolf's research programs can be found at www.cfr.washington.edu/research.envmind.

2002

Chatham County Soccer Complex
Coastal Middle School
Islands Elementary School
Marshpoint Elementary School
City of Savannah FEMA Property, Baker Street



2003

Tybee Island's Memorial Park, Jaycee Park and Tybee Lighthouse
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography Campus

2004

City of Savannah FEMA Property, Wilshire Canal
City of Savannah FEMA Property, Woodley Road
Shorty Cooper Drive

2005

East Broad Street Elementary School
City of Savannah FEMA Property, Wilshire Blvd.
Scott Stell Community Park

2006

Magnolia Park
May Howard Elementary School
Hunter Army Airfield

2007

Mobley Park in Port Wentworth
Tybee Island's Memorial Park, Jaycee Park
and Tybee Campgrounds



Tree Planting Sites

1989

Scott Stell Community Park

1993

White Bluff Road

1994

White Bluff Road

Hunter Army Airfield

Stephenson Avenue Gate



1995

Lake Mayer

Georgetown Elementary School

1996

Truman Parkway at DeLesseps Avenue

1997

Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum

Memorial Medical Center Access Road & Jenkins High School

1998

Southwest Bypass of Chatham Parkway Interchange

1999

Lake Mayer

2000

Scott Stell Community Park

2001

Savannah State University

Air National Guard Base, Travis Field

Islands YMCA



Trees and Urban Streets: Research on Public Perceptions and Transportation Safety

a transportation workshop by
Dr. Kathleen Wolf, Research Social Scientist,
College of Forest Resources, University of Washington

*presented in partnership with the
Metropolitan Planning Commission*

**Wednesday, February 20, 2008, 8:30 a.m.
The Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room,
Metropolitan Planning Commission**

Program

Opening Remarks

Mrs. Diane Houston, President, STF

Mr. Mark Wilkes, AICP, MPC

Workshop Lecture

Dr. Kathy Wolf

Q & A Session

moderated by Mrs. Dale Thorpe

*This presentation is sponsored in honor of
the late Judge Arthur Solomon,
a Chatham County Commissioner
for 46 years, from 1914-1960,
who advocated for canopied roadways.*

Twenty five years ago...

...removal of the Candler Oak was imminent.

Today the Candler Oak is protected by a conservation easement with stewardship provided by the Savannah Tree Foundation.

...Savannah had an aging urban forest where more trees were cut down than replaced.

Today the City of Savannah's Park & Tree Department plants one third more trees than it removes each year.

...there were no tree protection ordinances for new development.

Today most local governments in Chatham County have established tree protection ordinances.

...urban sprawl was threatening Chatham County's rural areas, signaling great loss of forested lands.

Today some forested and natural areas have been protected—yet so much more remains to be done.

...Daffin Park's mall was used as a parking lot, compacting the critical root zone on the then 75-year-old live oak trees.



Today Daffin Park's mall is no longer available for parking, the 100-year-old oaks are prospering, and young trees have been planted.

2000 Club, The Savannah Community Foundation
Chatham County Veterans Council ✦ Clarke's Block
Dan Vaden Chevrolet/Geo ✦ Garden Club of Savannah
Georgia-Pacific Corporation ✦ Hunter Army Air Field
Huntingdon-Whitaker Inn ✦ JCB ✦ Kehoe Rental
Low Country Machinery ✦ Mr. And Mrs. Christopher Klein
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Minis ✦ Parker's Market ✦ Penske
Piggly Wiggly ✦ Pineland Nursery ✦ Publix Super Markets
Redgate Farm ✦ Robertson & Markowitz
Savannah Forestry Equipment ✦ Savannah Homebuilders
Savannah Morning News
Savannah State University ✦ Savannah Technical College
Savannah-Chatham County Board of Education
Seeds and Weeds Garden Club
Society of American Foresters ✦ Starbucks Coffee
Stormy Branch Nursery ✦ SunTrust Bank
The Alliance for Community Trees
The Home Depot Foundation
The Home Depot Store #122 (Abercorn Street)
The Home Depot Store #170 (Victory Drive)
The Kroger Company ✦ Trustees Garden Club
Whelan's Furniture
White Bluff Presbyterian Church
Wicklow Farms ✦ WTOC



**Since 1993, the Savannah Tree Foundation
has planted 2,089 trees using
2,163 community volunteers at
31 community volunteer tree plantings.**

Tree Planting Partners

**Savannah Electric &
Georgia Power**

**Union Camp & International Paper
SuperTree Nursery**



Air National Guard 165th Airlift Wing

Chatham County, including the Engineering Department and
Public Works & Park Services Dept.

City of Port Wentworth

City of Savannah, including the Park & Tree Department,
Department of Leisure Services and the
Facilities Maintenance Bureau



City of Tybee Island

Forklifts & Bobcat of Savannah

Georgia Forestry Commission

Hunter Army Airfield Fire Dept.

Pooler Fire Department

Port Wentworth Fire Department

RB Baker Co.

Savannah Fire Department

Skidaway Institute of Oceanography

Southside Fire Department

Thunderbolt Fire Department

...plans to widen White Bluff Road called for the removal of many live oaks from Georgia's oldest historic road.

Today White Bluff Road has a median that preserved many of the old trees and allowed planting sites for new canopy trees.

...Mother Matilda Beasley Park site was contaminated and was owned by an investment group, which planned to develop it for commercial purposes.

Today Mother Matilda Beasley Park has been landscaped according to a master plan developed by Chatham County, Beach Historic Neighborhood Association, and the Savannah Tree Foundation.

...the future of Bacon Park Forest was uncertain, and 15 years ago it was in danger of being developed into sports fields.

Today, Bacon Park Forest is designated as a natural area for passive recreational use.

To counter these and other threats to the urban forest and to educate the public, three determined ladies from Vernonburg decided to work proactively to tackle these problems. They set to work to save the Candler Oak, advocated for tree protection through establishing local tree ordinances, and introduced "Project Learning Tree" to public and private schools.

**With these efforts,
the Savannah Tree Foundation was born.**

During the last twenty-five years, the Savannah Tree Foundation, working with many partners throughout the community, has addressed these urban forestry issues, as well as many more.

STF was first in the nation to

- Use satellite imagery to document tree canopy changes in an urban area
- Protect a single tree – The Candler Oak – through a conservation easement
- Introduce the “Project Learning Tree” curriculum into Georgia schools
- Produce a *State of the Trees* report to guide urban forestry policy at a municipal level
- Develop an urban forest component in a countywide disaster management plan, which later served as a model for the USDA Forest Service



Since 2002, the STF has held non-native invasive species removal workdays and Discovery Walks at Bacon Park Forest, one of the largest publicly-owned forests in Savannah.



In 2005, Melaver, Inc. began sponsoring the STF Community Volunteer Tree Planting program, which plants 200 trees per year, to offset the company's cumulative carbon emissions due to employee travel to and from work sites.

Georgia Forestry Commission

Georgia Urban Forest Council

International Paper Forest Resources

Karp, Ronning & Tindol, CPA

Klein Law Group, LLC

Metropolitan Planning Commission

Metropolitan Planning Organization and
Chatham Urban Transportation Study

National Arbor Day Foundation

National Park Service

Savannah Development & Renewal Authority

Savannah Housing Authority

Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

St. Joseph's/Candler Health System

Trustees Garden Club

USDA Forest Service

Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources
at the University of Georgia

Working in the public and private sectors on a national, state and local level, the Savannah Tree Foundation has impacted public policy on issues related to canopied roadways, best management practices for tree care, low impact development, tree protection ordinances, land use planning, government budgeting, and hurricane preparedness.

Community Partners

Alliance for Community Trees

American Forests

Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens

Chatham County Board of Commissioners, Engineering Department, Public Works & Parks Services Department, Chatham Emergency Management Agency

Chatham County Extension Service

City of Savannah Board of Aldermen, Park & Tree Department, Leisure Services Administration Dept., and Facilities Maintenance Bureau



Trees planted at Lake Mayer in 1995. There have been multiple community volunteer tree plantings at Lake Mayer, adding 87 canopy trees to this popular playground.



Risher Willard, GFC Urban Forester, served as a valuable advisor to the board of the Savannah Tree Foundation for many years. Other local ISA certified arborists who have generously given their time and expertise to the STF include Bill Haws, Dennis Goldbaugh, David White, Kevin Brown, Don Gardner, David Knox, Scott DeArmey, and Jerry Holcomb.

STF Board president Diane Houston with her husband Erv at the East Broad Street School tree planting in 2005.



STF has sponsored educational programs, workshops, symposiums, conferences, displays and brochures to inform the public about the importance of trees as infrastructure in all aspects of community life.

Tim Womick (*at right*) is a nationally known speaker who led 2,645 Chatham County public school students down the “Trail of Trees” in an STF sponsored event for Arbor Day in 2004.



Patrick Grant, STF’s Program Director (*at left*), filmed a Public Service Announcement about how to protect trees during drought conditions for airing on local television stations during 2007, when drought conditions were found throughout Georgia.

The Savannah Tree Foundation presented *Trees & Stormwater Management*, a 2003 symposium for public officials to learn about meeting educational public outreach compliance associated with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements. In 2000, the Savannah Tree Foundation hosted the statewide Georgia Urban Forestry Council’s annual conference in Savannah.

Kacey Ratterree and Beth Glass presented a workshop to the Savannah Utility Coordinating Committee in 1998. They also presented a program on the use of satellite imagery to evaluate tree canopy changes at the 1996 American Forest Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.



The Savannah Tree Foundation, in partnership with Savannah Electric, presented a pruning and mulching workshop for utility workers. STF Board members Dale Thorpe and Patsy Hopkins (*at left*) presented a skit on how workers can positively interact with irate property owners.

STF’s board and staff members frequently attend local events to reach out to the community and spread the word about the importance of trees. Pictured below left is a festival goer speaking with Diane Houston and Katty Smith at the *Celebrate Tybee Festival* in 2007. Adrienn Mendonca, STF Communications Director (*below right*) operated a booth at the Bonaventure Cemetery Centennial Celebration in 2007.

