



Preserve. Protect. Plant. Since 1982.

Patrick King with his son, Isaac, and friend, Payne, mulching trees at May Howard Elementary. Photo taken by: KC Allan

2014 Annual Report

Preserve. Protect. Plant. Since 1982.

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Karen Jenkins

The Savannah Tree Foundation mission is to preserve, protect, and plant canopy trees in Chatham County, Georgia. Through direct action and education, STF promotes an awareness of trees as vital environmental resources and an important part of our cultural heritage.

In 2014, STF embarked on a new strategic plan. The plan frames our work around key initiatives of education and advocacy. The foundation of the strategic plan is an updated Chatham County Canopy Assessment. The Canopy Assessment was our primary project in 2014 and will be the cornerstone for STF activities going forward. We are working with local governments and partners to ensure that they also benefit from the assessment data. The Canopy Assessment was one of many successful STF projects in 2014. With tree plantings, tree care, educational outreach, community partnerships, and so much more, STF made Chatham County a healthier, cleaner, safer, more economically sound place to live thanks to the benefits of trees. Thank you to each of our supporters for your contributions to preserve, protect, and plant trees.

- Karen Jenkins, Executive Director



Photo courtesy of Bill Durrence



Photo taken by of KC Allan

180 trees planted 300 volunteers
1,500+ trees healthier & stronger thanks to you

Planting & Caring for the Future

STF volunteers helped grow the tree canopy across Chatham County. STF planted a record number of trees in 2014. Caring for trees to help them reach maturity is equally important. Volunteers helped care for hundreds of the more than 4,000 trees STF has planted over the past 32 years.

- Thunderbolt Cesaroni Park Arbor Day tree planting
- Weeds & Wine at the Candler Oak
- Garrison School PTA tree planting
- May Howard PTA tree care
- Shorty Cooper Drive tree care
- Colonial Cemetery tree care
- East Broad Street Elementary tree care
- Invasive species mitigation at Westlake, Bacon Park Forest, and Mother Mathilda Beasley Park
- Bethesda Academy new trees
- West Broad Street YMCA tree mulching and pruning with Cabot Cheese Gratitude Grille Tour
- Greenbriar Children's Center tree care
- Mother Mathilda Beasley Park tree care
- Whitefield Avenue tree planting
- Wilshire tree care
- Tybee Island tree planting and tree care

Volunteers in Action

Volunteers are essential to our success.

Community volunteers ages 2 to 80 all participated in tree projects this year.

In addition to dedicated individual volunteers, many groups donated their time and services, including:

- Gulfstream
- Hancock Day School
- Hands on Savannah
- Host Kids Students
- John Carroll University
- Landings Garden Club
- Savannah Law School
- Metropolitan Savannah Rotary
- Savannah State University Ecology Club
- SCAD Serve
- Southside Fire Dept.
- Wells Fargo
- Western Illinois University

A Voice for Trees

STF provides a voice for trees in Chatham County. In our advocacy role, STF works with local governments and community leaders to reinforce the importance of trees in planning and resource allocation.

Tree Ordinance In 2014, STF encouraged the City of Savannah to adopt the proposed tree ordinance revisions. The revisions promote conservation of trees on private land while increasing protections for trees on public land.

Community Projects STF reviewed development projects that would affect the health of trees. STF commented on: the Jimmy DeLoach/Highway 80 GDOT project, Victory Crossing redevelopment, live oak preservation on West Bay Street, Delesseps Corridor Improvements, SCCPSS budgeting, downtown streetscaping, emergency planning, and the CORE MPO Transportation Improvement Program. To learn more about how trees will be affected through these projects, please contact Karen at the STF office.

Federal Funding Karen Jenkins attended Urban Forestry Day on Capitol Hill with the Alliance for Community Trees. Thank you to Representative Jack Kingston and Senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss and their staffs for discussing the role of urban forestry in Coastal Georgia.

Canopy Assessment STF commissioned the 2014 Chatham County Tree Canopy Assessment to document trends in tree canopy growth and loss. In July, STF hosted a day of outreach gatherings to announce the initial data and engage the public in the process. Approximately 100 community leaders and residents attended these outreach sessions to express their interest in protecting Chatham County's tree canopy.

2014 Chatham County Canopy Assessment

STF worked with Plan-It Geo to conduct the 2014 Chatham County Canopy Assessment. The assessment included statistical sampling and top-down image classification to measure trends in the tree canopy. The assessment enables us to compare data from the initial 1992 study to the realities of 2014. Measurements indicated the rate of loss of tree canopy, business as usual scenarios, and identification of areas to help reverse damaging trends.

Based on the Canopy Assessment, STF identified 5 areas of impact on which to focus our efforts to help grow Chatham County's tree canopy, including:

Environmental Equity Public Health Water Resources Parking Lots Schools

1999 Chatham County Tree Canopy: **41.7%** of land cover

2014 Chatham County Tree Canopy: **36%** of land cover

2050 Chatham County Tree Canopy: **23%** with business as usual

Data from 2014 Chatham County Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

You can view the entire Canopy Assessment report at SavannahTree.com.

With many thanks to our 2014 supporters...

LIVE OAK

\$5,000 +

Alliance for Community Trees
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Critz, Sr.
Courtney Knight Gaines Foundation
Alan S. Gaynor Fund with The Savannah Community Foundation
Georgia Power
The Hunter Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Thorpe, Jr.

SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Bartlett Tree Experts
Barbara and Charlie Cortese
Downtown Neighborhood Association
Linda Fisk and Wilson Morris
Garden Club of Savannah
International Paper
Christin and John Schoettle
Mr. and Mrs. Hue Thomas III

RED MAPLE

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Dr. and Mrs. Charles Belin
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Cari Clark & Patrick Phelps
Celia Dunn Sotheby's International Realty
Colonial Group, Inc.
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Mary and Howard Morrison
Joyce B. Murlless
Rotary Club of Savannah
Jacqueline and Ken Sirlin
Mr. O. Thompson Smith

St. Joseph's/Candler Health System
Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton White
Ms. Suzanne H. Williams
Dr. and Mrs. James A. Yeckley

SYCAMORE

\$500 - \$999

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Maynett and David Breithaupt
Brennan & Wasden LLP
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Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Moore
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Seeds & Weeds Garden Club
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Southern States Educational Fdtn.
Zelda and Sheldon Tenenbaum
Three Oaks Realty Company
Trustees Garden Club
Mr. and Mrs. Don L. Waters
Wells Fargo Foundation

SWAMP CHESTNUT OAK

\$250 - \$499

Katharine and Tic Atkinson
Bishop and Mrs. Scott Benhase
Dr. and Mrs. Franklyn P. Bousquet
Ms. Katherine Chisholm
Mr. and Mrs. Dale C. Critz, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Reed Dulany III
Dr. Charles Fana
Mr. and Mrs. George Fawcett
Susan Fearon
Charles Ferris and Pamela Nesbit-Ferris

Jan and Bob Harman
Dr. and Mrs. James Holtzclaw
Innovative Veterinary Medicine
Mr. Scott Jamieson
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Mr. and A. Mrs. Felton Jenkins III
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Drs. Monica and Jeff Kenney
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Dr. and Mrs. T. W. McKee
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McWhorter
Ron Melander
Mr. and Mrs. John Neely
Mr. Michael Pavlis
Mrs. John O. Paull
Mrs. Richard Platt
Melissa Ralph
Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah
Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Wasden III
Mr. Ryan Yeckley

WILLOW OAK

\$100 - \$249

Leigh Ann and John Adler
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Albert
Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Almy
Ms. Erika Archibald
Ms. Jean Arnold
Ms. Dorothy Bambach
Mrs. John Bangs
Mary Lynne Beckley
Mr. John Bennett
Kim Bockius-Suwyn and Dan Suwyn
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Ms. Mary Burdell
Mr. Raymond Cartledge
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Ms. Susan De Rosa
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Beth Goette
Vicky and Greg Guenther
Dr. Wendy Hall

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Mr. and Mrs. William H. Heald
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Mr. Kevin Klinkenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Kole
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Captain F. Slade Thorpe
Trees For Augusta
Gail and Robert Tucker
Polly and John Tucker
Denise Van Huss
Don Walters and Mary Benisek
Mrs. William Winburn III

TUPELO
\$50 - \$99

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Kris Williams & Chris Carroll
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Compton, Jr.
Mr. David Costrini
Mr. Derek Council
Ms. June Denlinger
Jeff Eley and Gregory Vaughan
Dr. Philip Gainey
Mrs. and Mr. Katharine Jacobs
Carol Jennings
Mr. and Mrs. Don Kole
Mr. and Mrs. Rob O'Brien
Mr. and Mrs. Rembert Roux
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Schubert
Mrs. Judy Sharpton
Mr. William Simmons

Katty and E.T. Smith
Mr. Judd Sneirson
Ria Sparkman

CYPRESS
up to \$49

Mr. David Acuff
KC Allan
Catherine Day
Robin Forseth
Dr. and Mrs. Morris Geffen
GFWC Sylvania Junior Woman's Club
Mr. Justin Hart
Mrs. William L. Hopkins
Mrs. G. Philip Morgan
Jamie Smith
Ms. Sonja Wallen
Mrs. Ray Wood

IN KIND

KC Allan
AWD Wood Design
Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc.
Bartlett Tree Experts
Mrs. Lynda Beam
Marti Bockhold
Cabot Creamery
Chatham County
City of Savannah Park & Tree Dept.
Barbara & Charles Cortese
Delightful Catering
DigitalDoc
Dr. Bill Dudley
Preston Evans
Ann and Russell Fries
Chris Gerards
Mr. Greg Guenther
Mr. and Mrs. John Harper III
Rebecca Hoffman
The Home Depot, E. Victory Drive
Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Houston
Karen and Felton Jenkins
J.T. Turner Construction Company, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Klein
Roddy Ledlie
Little Saint Simons Island
MountainFilm on Tour
Michael Murphy
Mr. Jere Myers

Mrs. Gage Ochsner
Ossabaw Consulting, LLC
Patagonia
Billy Rauers
Rivers & Glen Trading Co.
Southeastern Tree
Southern Pine Company
Southside Fire Department
The Nelson Group
Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Thorpe, Jr.
Tony's Jons
TooHolly Farm, the Guerry Family
Mr. and Mrs. Charles VandenBulck
Ms. Lisa Watson
Mr. Matt White
Mr. Gary Witbeck
Dr. and Mrs. James A. Yeckley

SUPPORTING LOVED ONES...

Many people donate to STF in honor or memory of the important people in their lives. STF plants trees at community tree plantings in honor of these individuals.

In honor of:

Michelle and Rodney Cohen
Diane and Erv Houston
Page Hungerpiller
Mrs. William Hutchinson
Karen Black Jenkins
Cary Jensen-Madison
Carol Moore
Elizabeth Rauers Newkirk
Charles VandenBulck
Dr. Robin Williams
new home owners from
Three Oaks Realty

In memory of:

James Allen
Barky the dog
Alex Cann
Lorton Livingston
Martin Lobkowitz
Jack Neises
Kathy Nelson
Edward C. Prellwitz
Marcia Smith

Spreading the Word

STF taught children, adults, volunteers, and students about trees. You learned more about the value of trees with STF at:

- Chatham County Maintenance Staff Pruning Workshop
- City of Savannah Earth Day Festival
- Civic groups including: Rotary Club of Savannah, Metropolitan Savannah Rotary, Savannah West Rotary
- Forsyth Park Farmers' Market
- Hurricane Preparedness Expo at Victory Drive Home Depot
- Math & Science Night at May Howard and Gould Elementary Schools
- National Trust for Historic Preservation annual conference urban forest walking tour
- Parkersburg Garden Club
- Senior Citizens Inc Learning Center
- Southern Garden History Tour Annual Meeting
- Summer Camp Tree Stories
- Tree Campus USA workshop

Additionally, STF participants attended the Georgia Urban Forest Council quarterly programs and annual meeting, Arbor Day Foundation Partners in Community Forestry conference, Alliance for Community Trees Day, and iTree Eco training.

Friendly Reminders:

Take Care of Your Trees, They Take Care of You

SCAD students are helping STF inform local citizens about trees. With financial support from International Paper, in 2014 STF printed student-designed door hangers informing residents about what they can do to help trees in their tree lawns, medians, and private property to grow to maturity. Door hangers outline water and mulching tips to help trees grow. When the City of Savannah or STF plants in a neighborhood door hangers are distributed to remind residents of how they can help care for new trees. Please let us know if you need door hangers in your neighborhood.



Putting a Dollar Value on Trees

STF used iTree analysis to assess the trees on the Forsyth Park promenade, West Bay Street road project, and Whitefield Avenue. iTree tools help explain the economic value a tree provides for the community. STF created tree tags to highlight the economic and environmental value of the Forsyth Park trees. The tree tags labeled trees in the park on Earth Day and for the Forsyth Park Farmers' Market.



Photo courtesy of Bill Durrence

Grant Funding

In an effort to expand our projects and diversify funding support, STF proudly received 2014 grant awards from:

- ◆ **Alan S. Gaynor Fund** for the bus stop shade trees project to plant 20 shade trees at Chatham Area Transit bus stops
- ◆ **Alliance for Community Trees** and **CSX Trees for Tracks** for Whitefield tree planting and iTree analysis
- ◆ **American Forests** and **IKEA** Global ReLeaf grant for the Whitefield planting
- ◆ **DIRTT** underwrote the Forsyth Park tree tags project
- ◆ **Downtown Neighborhood Association** for the Habersham Street Revitalization Project
- ◆ **Georgia Urban Forest Council** provided Georgia ReLeaf funding to help honor veterans with a tree planting at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Pooler
- ◆ **International Paper** for printing the Canopy Assessment
- ◆ **Georgia Power** for sponsoring the Canopy Summit
- ◆ **Savannah Community Foundation Emerging Leaders Council** funded the purchase of computer software

Deserving a Pat on the Back

- ◆ STF awarded our 2nd annual Founders Awards honoring **Armstrong State University** (Lynda Beam award), **City of Thunderbolt** (Page Hungerpiller award), and **Gordon Matthews** (Suzie Williams award).
- ◆ STF nominated three local candidates for the annual GUFCA awards, all of which won in their categories: **Bethesda Academy** won for Outstanding New Initiative Grand Award, **Mary Landers** won for Outstanding Media Grand Award, **Bartlett Tree Experts, Savannah office** won for Outstanding Business Grand Award.
- ◆ STF nominated **Reed Engle** for United Way Hands on Savannah Environmental Volunteer of the Year recognition for his work on the Wilshire tree planting project.
- ◆ **Dale Thorpe** was nominated for the National Philanthropy Day Volunteer of the Year award by STF. Dale has shown her dedication to STF with over 20 years of volunteer service.
- ◆ Special thank you to naval historian **Dr. Bill Dudley** for speaking at Fall Frolic and interviewing with GPB radio.
- ◆ **Karen Jenkins** bicycled 600 miles around Wisconsin on Tour des Trees to raise money for the TREE Fund and served on the board of directors of the Alliance for Community Trees.
- ◆ **You** for your support to protect Chatham County's essential natural resources.

Strength in Numbers

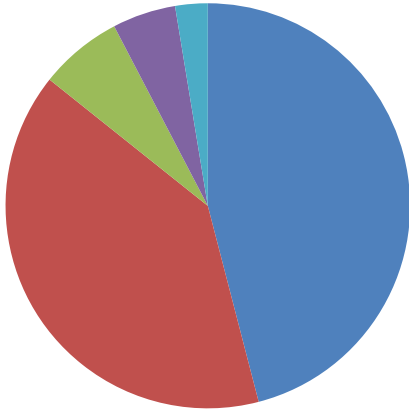
STF works closely with other organizations throughout the community to best serve our mission.

Among the groups with which STF partners include:

Alliance for Community Trees
Coastal Arborist Assoc.
Chatham County Resource Protection Council
Chatham Emergency Management Agency
Community Indicators Coalition
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Georgia Forestry Commission
Georgia Urban Forest Council
Healthy Savannah
Keep Chatham Beautiful
Keep Savannah Beautiful
Leaves of the Tree
National Association of Women in Construction, Coastal GA Chapter
Savannah Park & Tree Commission
Savannah Chatham County Public Schools
Urban Forestry South Strike Team

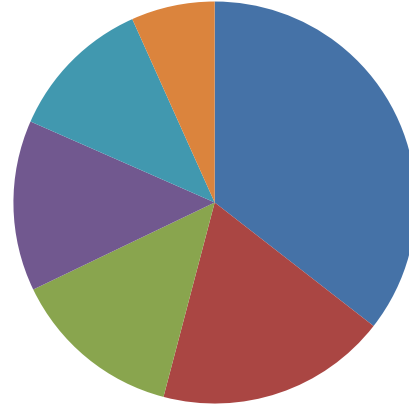
Funding the Cause

2014 Income: \$146,415



| | |
|--------------|----------|
| ■ Donors | \$67,286 |
| ■ Events | \$58,191 |
| ■ Grants | \$9,717* |
| ■ Investment | \$7,411 |
| ■ Tree Fund | \$3,810 |

2014 Expenses: \$193,319



| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| ■ Canopy Study | \$68,671 |
| ■ Trees/Tree Planting | \$35,905 |
| ■ Events | \$26,631 |
| ■ Advocacy | \$26,550 |
| ■ Marketing/Development | \$22,577 |
| ■ Education | \$12,985 |

* Grant income does not reflect funding received for projects that will be carried over into 2015 and 2016.



Thank you to
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www.SavannahTree.com
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