



TreesUpstate

2024 Annual Report



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Dear friends,

I'm here with Mary Lou Jones, the mother of our founder Katie Jones. Not only was Mary Lou with Katie in the early days of TreesUpstate, but Mary Lou also founded Friends of Paris Mountain State Park. Like going to sporting tailgates together, which they also do, conservation is a family tradition.

During Hurricane Helene, Mary Lou and her husband Lewis lost two towering chestnut oaks in their front yard. She says that the trees' decline started well before the storm due to one of their "community" group dying years ago. Like us, as Mary Lou attests, trees need a community to survive and to have a long and full life. In the Hidden Life of Trees Peter Wohlleben agrees:

*"...a tree can be only as strong as the forest that surrounds it...Their well-being depends on their community, and when the supposedly feeble trees disappear, the others lose as well. When that happens, the forest is no longer a single closed unit. Hot sun and swirling winds can now penetrate to the forest floor and disrupt the moist, cool climate. Even strong trees get sick a lot over the course of their lives. When this happens, they depend on their weaker neighbors for support. If they are no longer there, then all it takes is what would once have been a harmless insect attack to seal the fate of even giants."*

We know that just like a community of trees, we also need each other to thrive. And when we lose trees like we did during Hurricane Helene and the Table Rock wildfires, together we need to be at the forefront of planting for the future.





This fourth magazine-styled Annual Report edition is dedicated to you, a supporter of TreesUpstate who went above and beyond in 2024. You might have spent a lot more resources on tree cleanup this year than in the past, but still you continue to give and see the importance of planting new trees for the future. Thank you! We are grateful you are part of our community.

In the following pages, you'll learn about Master Arborist and TreesUpstate Board Member, Scott Carlson, and his expert thoughts on trees from the storm. Next is the impact of our Treesilience program that helped underserved residents remove trees so we can come back in the fall to replant. Then, we go to the local home of the Annual South Carolina Pawpaw Festival to learn about a surprising new tradition that centers around one of our beloved native trees. Finally, our closing article is about the recipient of our Emerald Award and the great example one developer is showing that will influence others to make nature and trees an integral part of new building plans.

Again, thank you for being part of our community of trees. We are stronger together and it means so much to have you as part of our growing movement.

Sincerely,

Executive Director







**Thank You 2024 Volunteers**

**2,574 Hours**

**1,115 Volunteers**







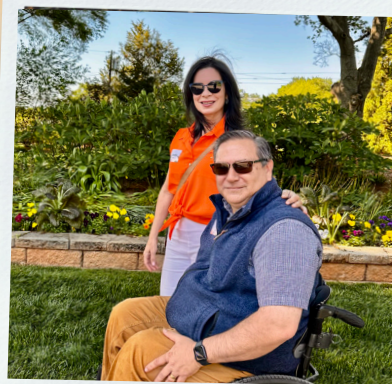
# Red Maple Events



*Becky's Peony*



*April 2024*



*Sandra and Miguel Giles*



*Bobby Hartness*



*Jen Buckner, Pat Hartness, and Joelle Teaskey*



*Becky Hartness*







Judy Cromwell



Anna Kate Hipp



The Woodshop



Anne Farrar, Emilia Stephenson, Becky Hartness,  
Anna Kate Hipp, Mary Lou Jones



Bob Dibella



Karen and Richie Andrews



Mary Lou Jones



# Great Scott, There's Hope!

TreesUpstate's first planting event in 2005 was at the intersection of Interstate 85 and 385 with Leadership Greenville, a Greenville Chamber program that helps develop Greenville Counties' leaders. We celebrated this inaugural grove of trees as a visible symbol that many would notice across the Upstate. Then due to traffic delays and the continued growth of the Upstate, we received word of a road expansion. Our beloved trees were in the way. The planting was so important to our fledgling organization and we couldn't stand the idea of losing our first trees. To save them, the trees were moved to a public area in Del



Aaron Davis, Lynzie Marchesani, Pat Harrison, Kylie Stackis, Scott Carlson Joelle Teachey, Katie Jones



Norte. TreesUpstate Board Member Scott Carlson of Schneider Tree Care led the charge to save as many of the trees as he could before the expansion. And twenty years later, Scott continues to fertilize, prune, and carefully care for this special grove. Without his dedication, it would certainly have been lost to history.

Scott Carlson is an Upstate icon. When the news needs a story about a storm or tree damage, they call Scott. His infectious energy and expert tree knowledge help the rest of us stay calm, learn more about trees, and take the best course of action in an emergency.

When Hurricane Helene came through, Scott awoke to the helpless sound of his own trees falling in the wooded area of his property. Thankfully, there was no damage to his home and he only lost a camper to a tree. Later in the day when he was able to drive around the neighborhood, the nightmare tree scenario unveiled. Helene wrecked the Upstate and left the worst tree property and infrastructure damage we've seen.

At Schneider Tree Care, it's Scott's job to help their 20 + arborists build and cultivate meaningful relationships with their current and prospective clients. In the early aftermath of the

storm these relationships would prove to be key as the company fielded over 5,000 calls for help. As Schneider Tree Care was involved with past cleanup for hurricanes and ice storms outside the Upstate, CEO and Owner Erich Schneider and the company had years of experience organizing disaster operations, finding hard-to-come-by fuel for heavy machinery, and working with FEMA. The Upstate had never seen anything like this, and suddenly experienced, trusted arborists and tree care companies became the most important people on the planet.

It is impossible to overestimate the influence that Scott has had on arborists both at Schneider and the wider industry. He can be described as positive, enthusiastic, extroverted, and above all inspiring. TreesUpstate founder Katie Jones says that she isn't sure TreesUpstate could have



*Scott teaches about herbicide damage*





Wind can topple trees more easily when the soil itself has less viscosity. However, it's incorrect to think that our soils are worse for trees than the soils on the coast. Coastal soils tend to be more organic and sandier, which on average allows trees to have more expansive root balls. However, their soils are also less dense than ours, perhaps making them no

survived the early days without his positivity. When differences arose in meetings about the future and vision of TreesUpstate, Scott helped guide the team with tree care knowledge and an infectious belief that no matter what, “we were going to make it.”

Many people, including the staff of TreesUpstate have asked him “Why – Why did we lose certain species? Why such widespread tree damage?” Scott explains that immediately before Helene, we experienced a soaking rain with wind microbursts that downed trees across our area. This substantial soil saturation combined with mounting tropical storm flood-like conditions, made our mixture of dense sandy loam/clay soil rapidly turn into mud.

better or worse for toppling. There did seem to be a surprisingly high percentage of hickory and white oak failures than other species. When the 55 to 70 mph winds hit our trees the white oaks also had full leaves and acorns on their branches acting as a giant heavy sail for the wind.

Scott has analyzed thousands of trees since that day and noticed a pattern in some that didn't fall. Though not 100% certain, large trees on a 5-year pruning schedule fared better because wind passed more easily through their branches. The trees nearest his house didn't fall, likely due to regular pruning and a root growth treatment he applied. He now recommends root growth treatments to many clients



who want to improve the safety of trees closest to their home.

Like us, trees are complex living organisms that researchers are learning more about every day. ISA Certified Arborists are specially trained to know the life expectancy of a tree and can expertly diagnose underlying health problems in mature trees, such as root and trunk decaying fungus or insect damage. It is best to plan now for the future loss of a tree that is at or near the end of its life expectancy and plant a new one that will eventually grow to take its place high in the canopy.

Having lived through a perhaps once-in-a-lifetime weather event as we just did, one of the best things in life is knowing an Arborist you trust and admire. There are many trusted arborists in our area, including several he has helped train himself. Since the early days, we've been fortunate to have Scott's leadership and infectious positivity when challenges arise. If you were to ask Scott today about his thoughts on trees, even after the recent storms and fires, he would be quick say,

**“Aren’t trees great!”**



*Scott Carlson and Kylie Stackis*









# 2024 Turkey Day Run

Presented By



**7,123** Participants

8K finishers: 1,699 5K finishers: 5,148

Top Male 8K Time: **James Quattlebaum @ 23:54**

Top Male 5K Time: **Trey Sullivan @ 15:22**

Top Female 8K Time: **Alyssa Bloomquist @ 27:51**

Top Female 5K Time: **Kelly Williamson @ 18:24**

**42** States represented

Plus Canada, District of Columbia,  
South Africa, United Kingdom, and  
Sweden

**3** RD  
Largest Race in South Carolina  
The Largest 8K in South Carolina





# The Plant Dude and *The Dreamer*

On a 35 acre plot near Lake Robinson in Northern Greenville County, a beautiful tale of community and trees is being written. Each year in late August, over 700 pawpaw lovers and guests gather for a wonderful event centered around a species of tree that captivates the imagination and palates of homesteaders, gardeners, and nature-lovers alike – *The South Carolina Pawpaw Festival*.

One of only a few pawpaw festivals in the United States, ours honors North America's largest native fruit. It sprouted from the local experience and wisdom of Carrie and Ryan Merck – two Clemson University students who fell in love, combined their strengths, built an environment, and wanted to share it with all of us.

Carrie was raised in Maryland with a large fruit and vegetable garden her family cultivated to can their own food and enjoy it during the winter. In the early 2000's she and Ryan met at Clemson where he was taking classes and was employed by the SC Botanical Garden's nursery. Ryan served as the Botanical Garden's Nursery Manager from 2003 to 2012, where he learned



Carrie and Ryan Merck



from and worked with many talented horticulturists. He also served as the conservator for a nature-based sculpture project—an intensive, 28-day temporary installation. He and Carrie collaborated with artists, including the renowned Patrick Dougherty, along with students and volunteers,

to create an ephemeral piece designed to help people interact with and experience nature. The skills they developed through that experience became foundational to the creative spark behind their successful one-day pawpaw festival.

In 2015, when they first built their home, which now sits in the center of the festival and nursery grounds, their idea was for a permaculture property. Permaculture is a system that uses radiating circles of natural ecosystems, sustainable for growing food and supporting life. As an industrial engineer who designs systems around how humans interact with nature, Carrie believes in a concept she calls *gardening for life*. Gardening for life isn't just for people, but also for pollinators, the

community, and nature. With their larger community in mind, Carrie and Ryan soon added nursery production, combining plant and tree production, permaculture, and art-inspired landscape gardens. Many of their magnificent trees have even been part of TreesUpstate's 1,200 pawpaw trees we've given away and planted across



*A delicious pawpaw fruit*

the Upstate. And it almost goes without saying that this enchanting setting they've built from the ground up now proudly serves as the festival grounds for everyone to enjoy.

The idea for a festival started with a simple farmers market booth and selling pawpaw trees alongside local food. Soon they discovered how little people knew of this astounding native fruit tree. In the past, pawpaw foraging was a normal part of life for homesteaders in the Appalachians and nearby foothills. Carrie and Ryan noticed that folks at the market were hesitant to plant a pawpaw tree unless they could first taste the fruit themselves. Since pawpaw fruit has a very poor shelf life, at the time the only way to taste a ripened fruit was to go into the woods and forage in the less



than ideal and muggy month of August. Ryan set up a pawpaw fruit tasting event on Facebook that drew a much larger crowd than expected. Carrie then invited family and friends to another tasting, and the idea was a hit. These tastings and interest from the community directly led to a festival. Says Ryan,

***“The festival is a celebration of pawpaws and is in line with so much of who we are and what we want to do with the nursery – benefitting our community and our ecosystem, which includes insects, zebra swallowtail, songbirds, wildlife, and humans.”***

Folks continue to come to the festival because it’s something they don’t have easy access to in daily life. And the festival is making a tree-mendous impact! Ryan tells the story of a lady who had come to the

festival in a mentally dark space. She saw the festival on a whim thinking it might lift her spirits a bit. She then saw all the life through the garden beds and the smiling people and the connections of kids with nature. She told Ryan and Carrie that the festival changed her life. She went home and started learning about native plants and ecosystem relationships and how to bring all that life into her own landscape. Ryan says, “It completely changed the direction of her life, just seeing nature work and what a landscape could be.”

When asked how much work this takes, Ryan smiled and said, “Carrie does all the business stuff and I do all the physical stuff.” Carrie adds, “Our business cards say, The Plant Dude and the Dreamer. People come to the festival to learn from Ryan, to talk to him, to learn from him, to know what plants to grow.” Ryan says that Carrie provides the necessary structure, vision, and business sense to make it a success.

Planning the SC Pawpaw Festival starts in April with the booking of the food, music, vendors, speakers, and farmers. They commission local artist Matt Andrews to design custom art for the festival t-shirts. Grafting of the trees starts at the beginning of May. Then



*Bluegrass at the Festival*





*Pawpaw trees at Blue Oak Horticulture*

May through August they are busy with maintenance and beautification of the grounds, advertising, promotion, volunteer recruitment, parking planning, fruit gathering and foraging—an extensive list of details. Two years ago, they received a phone call from someone in Arkansas asking for hotel recommendations.

The festival features experts and enthusiasts who teach different aspects of the pawpaw. Last year there were talks on propagation, commercial pulp production and distribution, the ecology of pawpaws, and even a foraging walk to see nature as a source of medicine and food.

The most common question asked of Ryan is, “what does a pawpaw taste like?” Ryan says “that you can say banana mango, and that’s kind of close, but there are many

subtle tasting notes that can change from fruit to fruit.” At the festival, you can eat fresh pawpaws and other delicious local food made with its pulp including ice cream, beer, simple syrup, barbeque sauce, non-alcoholic seltzer, desserts, and agua fresca – all while listening to live bluegrass music and connecting with people and nature. We are truly grateful that this community treasure exists, right here in our own ecosystem (backyard).

**Save the date for this year’s festival on Saturday, August 30th, 2025.**

**Tickets will be available online at [blueoakhortsc.com/scpawpawfest](https://blueoakhortsc.com/scpawpawfest)**

**TreesUpstate Red Maple Society members will also be invited for a private tour and tasting before the event.**



*Last years lineup*



# Treesilience

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, TreesUpstate's first step was to pause our ongoing tree planting projects. Next, we thought of ways we could help. Our Community Forester, Sarah Avera, immediately went to North Carolina to offer relief services. She will never forget the terrible feeling of talking with a homeowner whose dad was swept away and died in a mudslide.



Sarah also experienced damage to her rental in West Greenville. An aging water oak, that should have been removed by the landlord years ago, fell and rested on the house. For the next few months she had to bunker down in a different part of the house hoping

the enormous tree would stay in its resting position and not cause further damage. Just a month and a half before the storm, Sarah had started working at TreesUpstate. Her role is to plant, care, and maintain trees across our region. Was something telling her that she should give up, that somehow she wasn't supposed to be working with trees?

TreesUpstate decided to be part of the immediate solution. We worked with grant partners United Way of Greenville County, Greer Relief, and the One SC Fund of the Central Carolina Community Foundation to help clean debris for those who couldn't afford it. United Way set up an AmeriCorps intern to take calls, while Sarah continues to assess properties and manage the program.

Treesilience is the term for a national movement to remove and replace dead trees in communities that stand to gain the most from urban forests. While TreesUpstate isn't part of the national project that currently works in only 6 metro areas, we know that sometimes it takes the removal of a tree to plant a new tree. Many residents in low to moderate income neighborhoods that have low tree canopy are initially reluctant to plant a tree even if they can save over 7% on average on their utility bills from the shade.



They aren't able to afford the thousands of dollars it costs to remove a tree and are worried the cost of maintaining new trees isn't worth it in the long run. By showing a community that we understand their difficult circumstances and offer trees that are varying sizes when mature, we are much more likely to encourage them to partner with TreesUpstate to plant free trees in their yards. We employ our Workforce Development crew to help with cleanup and planting. This helps give our crew members a path for a successful career while serving their own communities.



We are proud to say that Sarah didn't give up. Her home has been repaired and the tree is now gone. This trial strengthened her resolve to teach others the value of planting new trees, and the importance of monitoring trees for decay or disease. Her experience has only made her stronger and given her a bigger heart for both people and trees.



# 2024 TREE PLANTINGS

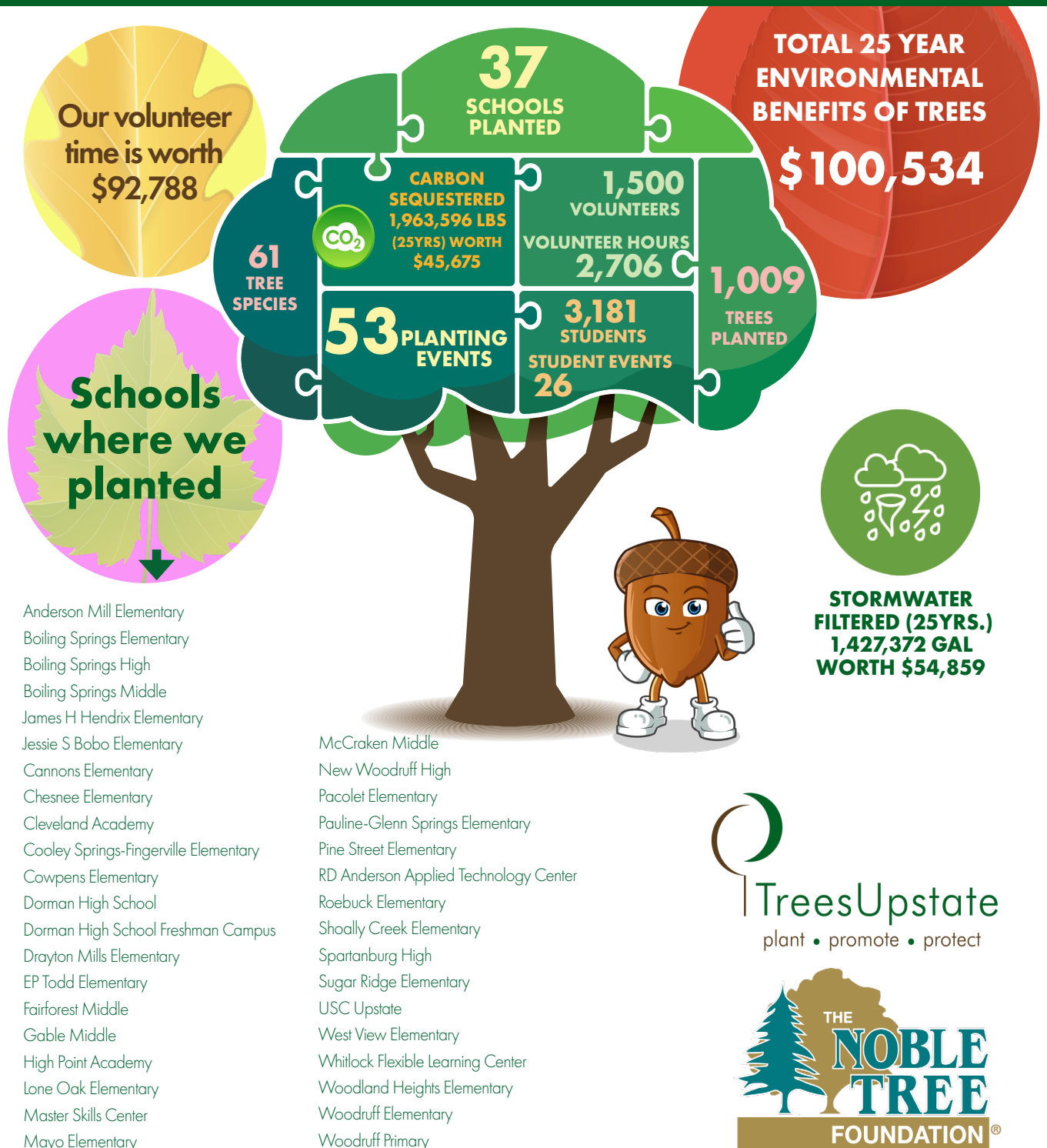


## 2024 Plantings (in order of planting date)

Plain ES (Elementary School), Southside HS (High School), West Greenville Neighboroods, Yousef Mefleh Memorial Fields (1), Rocky River Nature Park, Brook Glenn ES, Heidelberg Materials, Woodland Heights ES, Middle Saluda River Reforestation at Tilly Road, Master Skills Center, Pelham Road ES, Clemson ES, Shoally Creek ES, Piedmont Neighboroods (3), Green Charter MS (Middle School), Cannons ES, Roebuck ES, Poe Mill (2), Sterling / West End (4), Terry Creek Reforestation, Swamp Rabbit Trail Keith Drive, Boiling Springs MS, Hub City Farmers Market, Clemson University Gymnastics, Boiling Springs HS, Greenville County Animal Care, Upstate Forever Memorial Property, High Falls County Park, Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail Greenline, Sleepy Hollow Neighboroods, Dixie Estates, Dunbar CDC (Community Development Center), TK Gregg / Tiger Park, Greenview CDC (6), new Woodruff HS, Conestee Nature Preserve (7), South Converse Park (8), Dixie Estates pt.2 (5)



# SPARTANBURG COUNTY SCHOOLS TREE PLANTINGS BY THE NOBLE TREE FOUNDATION AND TREESUPSTATE AS OF APRIL 2025



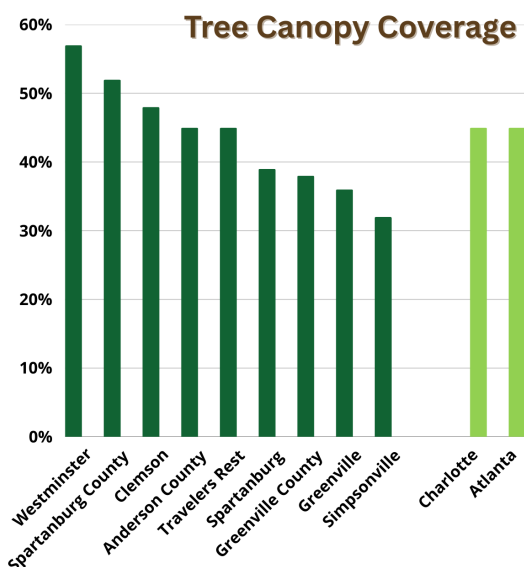


# The Emerald Award

**The Board of Directors of TreesUpstate have selected Verdae Development as the winner of the 2024 Emerald Award for the Legacy Connector Project.**

The Emerald Award is given to extraordinary developers, individuals, or municipalities that implement innovative methods to plant, promote, and protect trees. This includes saving trees, protecting the critical root zones during construction, and making decisions before disturbance begins that will have low impact to the environment. Special points are given to those who work with an ISA certified arborist throughout the project, beginning to end.

We believe that many times developers and the conservation community can find common ground when a project requires cutting down trees. Our trees and tree canopy are one of the main reasons that businesses and individuals move to our area, and as a community we can't be blind to the physical, social, and future economic harm that over-development does to the Upstate. Verdae Development did things right. They are leading by example and with this award will encourage others to do the right thing in the future.



The Legacy Connector Project is a pedestrian trail through heavily forested areas that links the City of Greenville's Legacy Park to the County of Greenville's Greenline portion of the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail. TreesUpstate, Upstate Forever, Friends of the Reedy River, Legacy Park Friends, City of Greenville Planning, Greenville County Parks and Recreation and neighboring homeowners have helped in the planning to minimize the impact to the environment.



Said CEO Dan Klausner, “As a subsidiary of Hollingsworth Funds, Verdae Development was born of generosity and a passion for the community, with the specific charge to foster good works in perpetuity. We desire to shift away from a suburban, car-dominant experience to a walkable, close-knit, vibrant, diverse, and connected community. Incorporating walkable and bikeable connections throughout the project enhances the outcome for a comfortable and user-friendly experience. Preserving woodland and wetland areas ensures that we can keep more “Green” in Greenville.”

Thank you Verdae Development for showing the Upstate what is possible when developers work with the conservation community to build mutually beneficial relationships that enhance the quality of life for everyone.

**TreesUpstate is currently taking nominations for the 2025 Emerald Award until December 31, 2025.**

*Learn more about the award and how to apply or nominate someone at [TreesUpstate.org/who-we-are/emeraldaward/](https://TreesUpstate.org/who-we-are/emeraldaward/).*

## Project Highlights

- By following an established deer trail, grading activity was minimized.
- A third-party ISA certified arborist was part of the project from beginning to end to preserve as many trees as possible.
- Tree fencing protected critical root zones of trees from disturbance.
- Replanted/reforested deciduous and evergreen trees.
- Worked with TreesUpstate to determine tree and tree species selections.
- The trail path was reduced in width between 8' - 10' to reduce tree disturbance and erosion.
- The construction team used hand clearing and small machinery to minimize impact to healthy trees.





# TREESUPSTATE'S ENERGY SAVING TREES GIVEAWAY

(2016-2024)

PRESENTED BY



30,371  
TREES GIVEN  
AWAY THROUGH  
DECEMBER 31, 2024  
AT 111 EVENTS

\$10,939,102 COST SAVINGS

*Thank You  
Duke Energy*

## 2024 TREE GIVEAWAYS

2016-2024 Total Energy-saving Trees through Duke Energy: **30,371**  
2024 Truist: **425**  
2024 Enterprise Mobility **65**

20-Year forecasted iTree benefits of 30,371 Trees



kWh SAVED

102,611,674



141,102,528

CARBON  
SEQUESTERED/  
AVOIDED



661,972,753

GALLONS OF STORMWATER FILTERED



290,161

LBS OF AIR  
POLLUTANTS  
ABSORBED





# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

What did we plant?

2,309 TREES  
54 SPECIES

How many tree plantings?

43

NEIGHBORHOODS 23%

PARKS 35%

SCHOOLS 42%

HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS?

1,134 VOLUNTEERS  
2,629 VOLUNTEER HOURS\*

TOTAL PLANTED

15,740

EDUCATION

16 SCHOOLS & 882 STUDENTS



46,111

PLANTED + GIVEN AWAY 2006-2024

\*According to the independent sector, volunteer time in SC is valued at \$34.29/hour. Our volunteer time is worth \$90,148.



# Planting the Path

*These stories celebrate growth, resilience, and the power of investing in people on their journey forward.*

TreesUpstate's Workforce Development Program trains and employs young adults ages 18 to 31 who are often excluded from stable employment. Over 15 paid weeks, apprentices gain hands-on experience in landscaping and tree care, earn industry certifications, receive weekly mentorship, and build the soft skills that employers say are critical. Many graduates step directly into jobs with our network of industry partners.

This program is more than job training. It is a pathway to lasting opportunity. We help apprentices overcome barriers like unreliable transportation, lack of banking access, and unstable housing, while preparing them for careers in a growing industry.



Jatwon Small

“Before I worked at fast food restaurants and didn’t have a vision for my future. After 15 weeks I learned about tree identification, irrigation, tree care and invasives management. Tree ID was a new thing for me because I wanted to learn more about trees because I couldn’t walk into a park and tell you what type of trees were there. Now I’ve been learning the Latin names for trees and I try to teach my cousins tree identification. This experience brought me out my shell. Thank you to everyone here for investing in me and believing in me.”

– Jatwon





Isa Muhammed

“I actually started this program with a broken arm. I was less motivated than everyone else because of my handicap, but then I saw how hard my peers were working. I saw how they got up every day in the morning and worked toward their goals and I knew that I had to be like them, because just like them, I didn’t have anything before this program...so I worked hard. I learned from all the shadow companies and I learned from our mentors, I learned from Adulting 101. I learned from everybody. I learned all the knowledge that I could sponge.

Without TreesUpstate, I wouldn’t have had that laser vision to see my role, because I see it now. I also want to thank the shadow companies as well as you taught me a lot. And now that I’m a certified landscaper, I see a new horizon.”

– Isa

“This journey here has been awesome because I have learned many new things. Strategies from the correct way to plant a tree and to climb a tree. From machinery operation to office work – it was actually a fun experience.

My end goal is to become an ISA Certified arborist. I am committed to continuing to learn and grow and contribute to the field of arboriculture. I’m excited that I have a job starting at The Greenery where I’ll be doing a wide variety of landscaping. I am confident that I can achieve my goal and make a meaningful impact. Thank you TreesUpstate and the companies that I shadowed. Thank you for believing in me.”

– Joe



Joe Pedermo

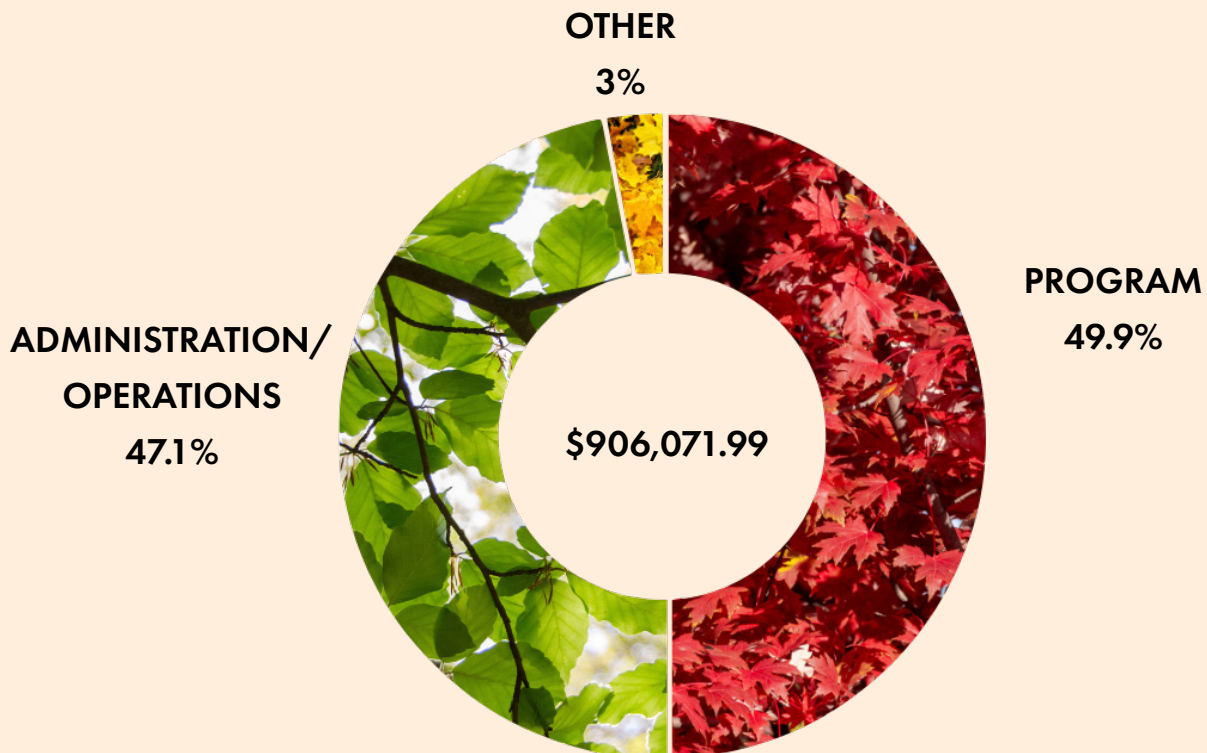


# FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

## OPERATING REVENUE



## OPERATING EXPENDITURES





## WHITE OAK

\$20,000+

The Arbor Day Foundation  
Duke Energy  
Enterprise Mobility  
Meritage Homes  
Piedmont Natural Gas  
The Noble Tree Foundation  
Truist

## TULIP POPLAR

\$10,000 - \$19,999

City of Greenville  
City of Spartanburg  
County of Spartanburg  
Greenville Journal  
Foothills Community Foundation  
One Spartanburg  
Sage Automotive Interiors  
Schneider Tree Care  
Spartanburg Water  
Summit Media  
TD Bank, N.A.  
United Way of Greenville County

## BLACK TUPELO

\$5,000 - \$9,999

BMW  
Dabney Collins  
Greer CPW  
Publix Super Market, Inc.  
Timberlab

## SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Canal Insurance  
DRB Homes  
Fairway Subaru  
Foothills Rotary  
Grass Nerds  
Jacobs  
Pintail Capital  
Prisma Health  
Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville  
ScanSource  
The Nature Conservancy

## GINGKO

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Blue Ridge Outdoors  
Bolton & Menk  
Briles Insurance Company, Inc.  
Carolina Fresh Farms  
City of Clemson  
Clemson Downs  
Earth Design  
emedia Group  
EnviroSouth  
Fleet Feet Greenville  
Freeland & Kauffman  
The Gallivan Group  
at UBS Financial Services  
Greenville 360  
Greenville Roller Derby  
Greenville Spinners  
Greer Centennial Lions Club  
Goodwyn Mills Cawood  
Jordon Construction Company  
Nelson Mullins  
Paxton

Ross & Enderlin, PA  
Smith Hudson Law, LLC  
Southern Om  
Spinks Family Foundation  
Swamp Rabbit Cafe  
Sunrift Adventures  
Think Up Consulting  
Upstate Running Club  
Without Limits

## CAROLINA SAPPHIRE

\$500 - \$999

Aaron Pate Media  
AKA Epsilon Beta Omega Chapter  
Arrowood and Arrowood  
B. Bracknell Shuler, LLC  
Clayton Construction  
DP3  
Evergreen Traditions  
Johnson Controls  
McMillan Pazdan Smith  
PMC Commercial Materials  
Public Strategy  
Robert Rogers, MD, PA.  
SeamonWhiteside  
Swamp Rabbit Physio



 **TreesUpstate**  
plant • promote • protect

# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS





## 2024 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

### RED MAPLE SOCIETY

#### \$25,000 +

Mary Lou & Pat Hartness  
Anna Kate Hipp  
The Waggoner Foundation

#### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Priscilla Hagins  
The Helga Marston Foundation  
The Noble Tree Foundation

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

David Andrews  
Balmer Foundation  
Ann & Michael Chengrian  
Mary Lou & Lewis Jones  
Jay & Stefanie Martin  
J. Dabney Peeples & Arthur Campbell  
Diane Smock & Brad Wyche

#### \$2,500 - \$4,999

Jenny & Trey Cole  
Andrea & Edwin Cooper  
Daniel-Mickel Foundation  
Fielding & Gally Gallivan  
Nikki & Allen Grumbine  
Becky & Bobby Hartness  
Susan & Les Hicken  
Heather & Glenn Hilliard  
Carter & Will Lowrance  
Lea Rohrbaugh  
Martha & Kenneth Severens  
Sydney & Ed Taylor

#### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Melissa & Scott Anderson  
Karen & Richie Andrews  
Jennifer Buckner & Andrew Baird  
Karen & William Brown  
Kate & Tony Brown  
Margaret & Duff Bruce  
Susan & Scott Carlson  
Pam & Scott Christopher  
Millie Collins  
Judy Cromwell  
Ashley & Aaron Davis  
Sam Davis

Carol Savage & Bob DiBella  
Cindy Walsh & Brian Edens  
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Katie & Clark Gallivan  
Sandra & Miguel Giles  
Margaret & Lowrie Glasgow  
Nancy Goldsmith  
Sandra & Dale Hamann  
Nancy Hamilton  
Ben & Linda Hannon  
Seth Harrison  
Jackie Highley  
Reid & Brice Hipp  
Anne & Frank Holleman III  
Katie & Rob Howell  
Ann & Joe Jennings  
Lindsay & Keith Jones  
Katie & Scott Jones  
Williams Kent Jones  
Sandy & Tom Kester  
Linda Ketelaar  
Mary & Jeff Lawson  
Jill & Les Lewis  
Laura Griswold & Tom Lonergan  
Nancy & Erwin Maddrey  
Anne & Bill Masters  
Alice & Scott McCrary  
Jane McCutcheon  
Vidya Kamath & Niranjan Pai  
Jane & Don Pilzer  
Cindy & Jack Plating  
Inge & John Rekers  
Sherry & Jeff Rhodenbaugh  
Linda Schuett  
Minor & Hal Shaw  
Susan & Russell Stall  
Emelia & Jim Stephenson  
Donna & Joe Sullivan  
Joelle & Michael Teachey  
Karen Traxler  
Betsy & Gordon Turnbull  
Elizabeth & Adam Tyson  
Mary Walsh  
Leslie & Kyle Waltz  
Bettina & Kirk Wehner  
Janette Wesley

Susan & David White  
Susan & David Wilkins

*(Red Maple lists as of July 2025)*

### CAROLINA SAPPHIRE \$500 and up

Peggy & Dave Beisser  
Sara Betts  
Marcy & Albert Fedalei  
Barb & Pat Fountain  
Carol Young & Brooks Gallagher  
Joseph Gibbs  
Dr. Donna & Steve Graddick  
Patti & Jimmy Grantham  
Jean & Richard Greer  
Leslie Milling  
Andy Nicolai  
Dewey Oxner  
Nicola Page  
Lavinia & Lee Plumbee  
Alison Rauch  
Ken Simmons  
Lois Taylor  
JR Taylor  
Kathy & Charlie Whitmire

### EASTERN REDBUD \$250 and up

Robin & Michael Aleksinas  
Katherine Amidon  
Maxcy Boineau  
Annette Burdette  
Elsbeth & Matthew Chaney  
Erin Riddle & Brent Clymer  
Sara & Eric Dellinger  
Susan McWatters & Melba Eason  
Ken Glenn  
Kimberly Hand  
Beverly & Robert Howard  
William Jackson  
Kristi Lenz  
Heather Lyndon  
Jean Martin  
Margaret Dunford & Bill



Barb McFetridge  
 Eva McLeod  
 Brian McMorrow  
 Andrew Merkle  
 James Morris  
 Marie Murdaugh  
 Jacqueline Oliver  
 Dawn Pagan  
 Snow & John Parrott  
 Jane Pressly  
 Anne Marie Ravindran  
 Traci Reddekopp  
 Helen Reetz  
 Staci Rozek  
 Marsha & Dan  
 Sichveland  
 Julie & Lindsay Smith  
 Stephanie Southerland  
 Gaye & Joel Sprague  
 Marcy Stowell  
 Pat Strong  
 Stephen Tangey  
 Andrew VanPutte  
 Bonnie & Bo Wallin

## **CAROLINA SILVERBELL**

**\$100 and up**

Barbara & Gilbert Allen  
 Judy & Bob Bainbridge  
 Jane Chambers & John  
 Bissell  
 Barbara & John Blanton  
 Margaret Borry  
 David & Kelly Buckshorn  
 Thersea Busch  
 Colton Capps  
 Alice & John Claggett  
 Lynette & Eric Cummings  
 Mark K. Johnston & Susan  
 E. Cyr  
 Suzanne & Dennis  
 Dandeneau  
 Don & Glenna Descy  
 Clare Dillon-Palma  
 Andy Douglas

Robert Ellis  
 Susan Gregg Fellers & Mark  
 Fellers  
 Stephen & Janet Figueroa  
 Sarah & Geroge Fletcher  
 Debbie & Clyde Fowler  
 Madeline & Allen Freeman  
 Joyce Garner  
 Mary & Ted Gentry  
 Laura & James Gossett  
 Marion & Jon Grier  
 Jo & Bob Hackl  
 Virginia Hilsman Gould  
 Mary Ann Hipp  
 Anne King  
 Butch Kirven  
 Van & Melinda Matthews  
 James Morris & Deborah  
 McAbee  
 Sue McInerney  
 Laurel Melson  
 Allison & Kevin Mertens  
 James Byron Morris  
 Nancy Neal  
 Louise Peden  
 Rob Phillips  
 Stephanie & Dane Pierce  
 Mary Ann Pires  
 Debra Price  
 Sarah Roberts  
 Sandy & T.K. Rogers  
 Melanie & Tony Ruhlman  
 Andrea Schechter  
 Alex Schmitt  
 Margaret Scieszka  
 Ann M. Sharp  
 Gordon Sherard Jr.  
 Janet Snell-Kelly  
 Debra & David Spear  
 Patricia Stamey  
 Sharon & Adrian Steinmann  
 Denise & Terhune Sudderth  
 Steven & Janet Sumner  
 Thomas Terez  
 Tom Tiller  
 Amy & Dev Vaz  
 Constance Vukin

Lara Wannemacher  
 Doreen & William Wermuth  
 Chris Yaroch  
 Beth & Ron Zweigoron

## **TRIBUTES**

### **In Memory Of**

Mary Andrews  
*From Karen & Richie Andrews*  
 Pete Manos  
*From Arcisan, Inc*  
 Hays Reynolds  
*From Andy Douglas*  
 James Palmore Jr.  
*From Kate Fickell*  
 Buster Beacham  
*From Sheryl W Hoskins*  
 Laura Belle Cheney  
*From Colleen LaHaise*  
 Mike Jones  
*From Kristi Lenz*  
 Steve Guthrie  
*From Kate Marcus*  
 Christopher Carson  
*From Jean Martin*  
 Gil C. & Luke C. Crouse  
*From Barb McFetridge*  
 L Weaver  
 Lucinda Satterfield Smith  
*From Andrew Merkle*  
 Dale Adams  
*From Dawn Pagan*  
 Dennis Martin Halloran  
*From Helen Reetz*  
 Ed Herren  
*From Staci Rozek*  
 Barbara Reighard  
*From John Ryan*  
 Debbie Sejman  
*From Mark Sejman*  
 Douglas VanPutte  
*From Andrew VanPutte*  
 Lorna Sawyer  
*From Lara Wannemacher*  
 Sherri McCarrell  
*From Youth Services Department*

### **In Honor Of**

Allen Robinson  
*From Katherine Amidon*  
 Dorothy Jane Ketelaar  
*From Clare Dillon-Palma*  
 Lance & Jodie Blalock  
 Wayne & Carolyn Williams  
*From Sarah & George Fletcher*  
 Gather Homeschool Co-op  
*From Gather Homeschool Co-op*  
 Marshall Stone  
*From Greenville Garden Club*  
 Judy Cromwell  
*From Jo & Bob Hackl*  
 Green Charter Elementary  
*From Student Reward Cash  
 Donations*  
 Mary Lou Jones  
*From Williams Kent Jones*  
 Isabelle Neal  
*From Nancy Neal*  
 Evangeline Costa  
*From Anne King*  
 The Desai Family  
*From Grace Lyle*  
 Perry Gilreath  
 Mason Perdue  
*From Jean Martin*  
 Reverend Kellan Day  
 Boyd Cater  
 Ken Littlejohn  
*From Lavinia & Lee Plumlee*  
 Mr. Neville Cribb  
*From Thomas Terez*  
 Benny Bryson  
*From TVS Supply Chain Solutions*  
 David Gray & Lauren Gray  
 Uhrich  
*From Bill & Denise Wasilewski*



