

October 15- December 31, 2007

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We are deeply grateful  
for the continuing support  
of our members.

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Trees Atlanta has been a  
member group of Earth  
Share of Georgia since 1998.  
Visit [www.earthsharega.org](http://www.earthsharega.org)  
to give green at work  
or contact Earth Share of  
Georgia at 404.873.3173.



◀ THE TREE SAVANT ▶



Q & A

dear Tree Savant,

“How much mulch should a mulcher mulch...especially in severe drought?”

Mr. Chip Mulch

dear “Mr. M,”

Mulch is the best tool we have when we're low on water. It can help preserve precious moisture that soaks into the soil when it rains or when you water your plants (with your recycled, collected water of course). The key to retaining moisture is making sure your mulch is the right depth. Pile it too deep and the water will never make it to the soil. Make it too shallow and it could float away with rain or be ineffective in preventing soil moisture evaporation. Mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep and as wide as the branch tips (or drip line) of the tree. The wider the area of mulch, the better the chance of retaining moisture. I recommend organic mulch such as wood chips or bark (but never cypress mulch) and don't forget to keep it a few inches away from the tree trunk to prevent pest growth. Soil moisture retention isn't the only perk of mulching, but I'll ramble on for a while if I discuss mulch in all its glory. Mulch on.

Yours “Treely,”  
The Tree Savant

Have a question for the Tree Savant? Email [treebunc@treesatlanta.org](mailto:treebunc@treesatlanta.org) with your queries.



NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS!

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address correction requested

Trees Atlanta is a non-profit citizens' group dedicated to protecting and improving our urban environment by planting and conserving trees. We also educate the public about the importance of trees.



The Atlanta Treebune  
A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T R E E S A T L A N T A

WINTER 2008

The Silva Lining

The Deep Root Silva Cell support system ([www.deeproot.com](http://www.deeproot.com)) is a win-win solution for the natural and the man-made to coexist in a very tight urban space. The system is a series of strong, open building blocks, which are snapped together (like Legos) in a 2 to 3 foot deep site. The frame allows water to collect in uncompacted “structural soils,” perfect to sustain large trees. The frame also treats storm water on site, putting it back into the system more slowly, reducing flooding, creek erosion and sewer maintenance. The decking portion of the blocks, the “suspended sidewalk,” exceeds engineering loading requirements for sidewalks, parking lots, and other hard surfaces. This infrastructure technology is a dream come true for City trees.

In Drought, Do as We Say...and...Do as We Do.

**First a disclaimer.** Trees Atlanta doesn't have all the answers in times of great drought. But, we do have some recommendations and we are always searching for new solutions and technologies for a sustainable urban environment. To be credible, we also know that we have to walk our talk.

So this article is about how we are using our own Trees Atlanta headquarters as a model for the future of trees in Atlanta. Our Drought Task Force continues to address specific ways to deal with our current water shortage as it affects our property and the delivery of tree planting and tree care services throughout the City.

**Our Headquarters: An Urban Oasis**  
We are not rainmakers, but we are water collectors. So conservation of water is imperative—and immediate. Let's start with our headquarters on Chester Avenue in downtown Atlanta.

Bartlett Tree Experts, a leader in arboriculture science education and demonstrations, is sponsoring the *Bartlett Tree Experts Demonstration Site*. In this outdoor learning area, regional tree selections, urban planting techniques and regional environmental issues will be presented. In short, Bartlett's \$40,000 sponsorship of this site, our “back yard” landscaping and parking lot design allows us to select the right trees for the right place throughout our property, to install a DeepRoot Silva Cell system on the site ([www.deeproot.com](http://www.deeproot.com)), to plan for 100% on-site outdoor watering recycling, and to demonstrate other savvy planting techniques.

**Our Commitment: Harvesting Water**  
The Trees Atlanta Drought Task Force has put into motion a program of water harvesting at the new Trees Atlanta headquarters and around the City. Three-quarters of our roof is designed for water collection. We can collect 3,800 gallons of water with 2 ½ inches of rain. With continuous rain, we can collect and store 2,400 more gallons of water. We also use eco-pavers so water can be captured for our sidewalk plantings.

Trees Atlanta is also pleased to announce a new partnership with the City of Atlanta. Each week, City employees must test specific fire hydrants for public safety and water quality. In the process, thousands of gallons of water are washed away into nearby storm water drains. TA to the rescue! By coordinating with the City crew's testing schedule, the Trees Atlanta maintenance crew will now regularly capture this hydrant test water and store it in our water trucks to use for caring for City trees. Trees Atlanta currently has the ability to capture 2,000 gallons at a time for recycling. Talk about a win-win for the City and for Atlanta's trees!

**A Bigger and Better Water Truck**  
Finally, Trees Atlanta is acquiring a larger mobile unit for water delivery to the thirsty trees of Atlanta. The bigger water tanker matches our aspirations to keep Atlanta trees in good health, so that they can provide abundant shade, add beauty and provide a continuous canopy over our great City for generations to come.



DeepRoot Silva Cell system





# Trees Fit for a King

**Volunteers Make Positive Changes on Monday, January 21st**

**Trees Atlanta volunteers bundled up (it was 20 degrees) and celebrated the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a big way this year.**

**Tree planting in the Historic MLK District of the Old 4th Ward**

Volunteers planted trees around a barren parking lot on John Wesley Dobbs. This project was sponsored in part by Volunteer Emory.

**Tree planting at Historic Southview Cemetery**

We planted trees inside the cemetery and along surrounding streets. Southview Cemetery is the original burial place for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. before his remains were moved to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. It is also the resting place for many other African-Americans who have made significant contributions to American history and the struggle for freedom and peace. We hope that Southview's new trees will offer shade and hope to all who visit the cemetery in the years ahead.

**Forest Restoration at Connally Nature Park**

Energetic volunteers removed Chinese privet and English ivy to restore and maintain the home of two of the largest white oaks in the state, including Georgia's Co-Champion White Oak!



*Last year's volunteers planted in the Old 4th Ward (top and middle) and at Southview Cemetery.*



**Second TA Volunteer Baby has Sprouted!**

Congratulations to volunteers, Jeff Hawthorne and Sue Lin Yee, on the birth of their first Trees Atlanta baby, Zara Hawthorne. Jeff and Sue Lin met volunteering with Trees Atlanta and were married several years later. After seeing how caring Jeff and Sue Lin are with Atlanta's trees, we know they will be nurturing parents.

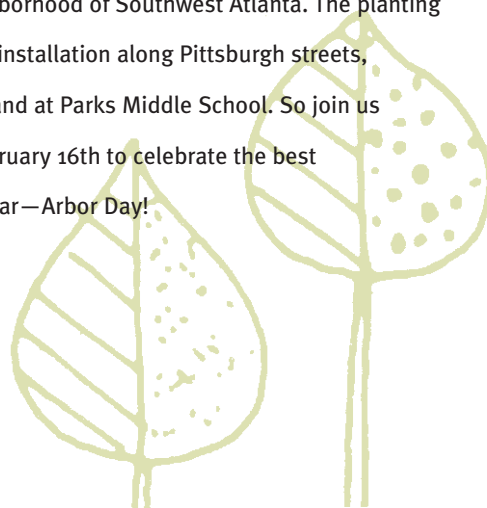
> When asked what he would do, if he knew the next day he was going to die, Martin Luther replied, "I would plant a tree."

## Bansley Accepts Award

Trees Atlanta's Executive Director, Marcia Bansley, received national recognition in November from the Washington, D.C.-based Alliance for Community Trees, a non-profit urban forestry organization. Bansley received the organization's "NeighborWoods Academy Scholarship" donated by The Home Depot Foundation, the leader in investing in nonprofit organizations that are in the business of building better communities through urban forestry.

## Georgia Arbor Day Friday, February 15

On the day after Georgia Arbor Day (which falls on the 3rd Friday of February each year), we will celebrate the official holiday with a tree planting project in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Southwest Atlanta. The planting will include tree installation along Pittsburgh streets, in Pittman Park and at Parks Middle School. So join us on Saturday, February 16th to celebrate the best holiday of the year—Arbor Day!



**AROUND THE "ATL"**

**Trees Atlanta supporters Michael and Christy Robison helped the Magnolia Garden Club Yard Sale raise \$7,500 for Trees Atlanta by enjoying some shopping.**



**Lots of Good Things are 'Growing On' at Trees Atlanta's Kendeda Center**



**above**  
Trees Atlanta NeighborWoods Coordinator, Susan Pierce, looks on as contractors from Hull-Dorsey Landscaping install a large shade tree on the back side of the new Trees Atlanta Kendeda Center in Reynoldstown.

This tree joins several others in a row that will shade the adjacent parking lot and any vehicles parked there. We all understand that cars produce emissions when they are driving, but cars parked in the sun continue to produce emissions as fumes evaporate from their gas tanks and from under the hood. Shading cars and asphalt from the sun is essential for keeping surrounding temperatures cool and improving Atlanta's air quality.

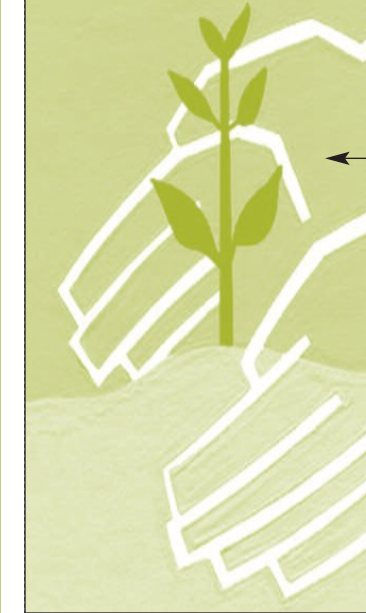
This row of trees will also help reduce the sun's glare for those inside the building and reduce storm water runoff on the site during rainfall.



**above**  
Trees Atlanta staff and volunteers install drought tolerant, native plants along the main drive into the new Kendeda Center. Special thanks to the Druid Hills High School Environmental Club for their hard work and support of this project.

**below**  
Members of the Druid Hills High School Environmental Club stand proudly next to a just-planted tree at Trees Atlanta's new headquarters in the Reynoldstown neighborhood. Trees Atlanta volunteers and contractors strategically planted a row of 'Princeton' American elm trees along the main drive into the new complex.

These trees will serve several purposes: 1) They will shade and cool the adjacent sidewalk and driveway, 2) They will shade the building with their leaves in the summer (meaning lower cooling bills), 3) They will shed their leaves and let ample sunshine through in the winter (meaning more warmth from the sun and lower heating bills), 4) And they will create beauty and soften the angles of the building.



## When in Drought, What Tree to Plant?

**Did you know that some drought tolerant species are not heat tolerant?** Many

commonly planted trees are drought tolerant once established but thrive in wet environments, like Bald Cypress and Red Maple. Dogwood, like many other flowering trees, never likes to dry out. **So the best**

**advice is to be sure to select the right tree**

**for your site conditions and to get your tree established when it is dormant during the winter months.** That also means planting the right tree in the right place.

To learn more, visit [www.treesatlanta.org](http://www.treesatlanta.org).

■ Did you know that in some US communities, like Chesapeake City, MD, urban tree planting is now being considered as a long-term air quality improvement strategy?



Help us plant and maintain trees and restore urban forests through the NeighborWoods volunteer program. Trees Atlanta's volunteer projects are fun and rewarding. All you have to do is show up, and we provide all tools and instruction. Here are some of our upcoming volunteer project locations and events.

**9:00 am—noon Saturdays**

Meeting place announced weekly

Projects are subject to change, so please visit [www.treesatlanta.org](http://www.treesatlanta.org) for updates and to sign up.

**FEBRUARY**

- 2 Bolton Academy planting  
The Bridge School planting
- 9 Oakhurst planting and Tree Walk  
Cabbagetown
- 15 Arbor Day
- 16 Pittsburgh planting  
Midtown Arboretum Installation
- 23 Morningside planting  
Simpson Road planting

**MARCH**

- 1 Capitol View Manor planting  
Forest Restoration at Beecher Hills
- 8 Hapeville planting
- 15 Poncey-Highland planting
- 22 TBD
- 29 TBD

**APRIL**

- 20 Earth Day Tree Care in Oakhurst
- 26 Tree Care for  
Earth Share of Georgia's  
Corporate Green Day