

## Mark Your Calendars!



- Tailgate for Trees  
September 22,  
2016
- Atlanta Canopy Conference  
September 23, 2016
- 17th Annual Tree Sale  
October 1, 2016





## The Atlanta Canopy Alliance Pledge

*Sign the pledge to show Atlanta's policy makers and influencers your support for protecting our urban canopy*

In every urban environment, pedestrians find themselves drawn toward sidewalks cooled by the shade of trees. Along with their natural beauty, trees provide a number of benefits, including: shade and temperature reduction, carbon sequestration, storm water mitigation, oxygen, wildlife habitat, and food for many species, including humans! Property owners on streets with canopy trees benefit directly from tree growth, leading to increased property values, increased foot traffic driving retail sales, and reduced automobile speeds. Trees are hard workers in a healthy urban ecosystem.

You can help to protect our urban canopy by signing the Atlanta Canopy Alliance Pledge for trees. The Atlanta Canopy Alliance (an urban tree advocacy alliance made up of The Conservation Fund, Georgia Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and Trees Atlanta) has written this pledge to help you make your voice heard by our city's policy makers and influencers.

The most recent canopy benchmark study for the city of Atlanta (2008 data) showed that tree canopy covered 48% of the city's land area - much of which is located in residential backyards and some undeveloped parcels. By

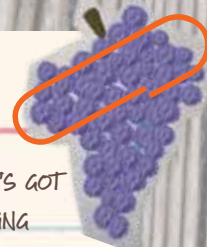
the end of this year, the City of Atlanta, in conjunction with the Center for GIS at Georgia Tech, will release an updated analysis of canopy data collected in 2014. No matter the result of this analysis, it is vital that Atlanta's citizens take steps to advocate on behalf of their urban canopy.

*Atlanta's trees require your support and action. By signing the Atlanta Canopy Alliance Pledge, you are adding your name and voice to support:*

- 1. Funding for the planting and care of new trees within Atlanta's urban forest.*
- 2. The preservation of existing forested urban land for the benefit and enjoyment of all Atlanta residents.*
- 3. Educational programs that develop citizens into skilled and knowledgeable stewards of the urban forest.*
- 4. The adoption and enforcement of beneficial tree ordinance updates that positively impact the protection of urban trees.*

**A copy of the Canopy Pledge can be found in this issue of our newsletter as a pre-addressed envelope for you to sign and return to Trees Atlanta.** Alternatively, please visit [treesatlanta.org/learn](http://treesatlanta.org/learn) to sign the pledge online and learn more about our Canopy Conversations program.

# History of an Atlanta White Oak



OVER THE PAST 7 YEARS, EXPLORING OUR LOCAL FORESTS, I'VE COME ACROSS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SPECIMENS OF WHITE OAK TREES IN ATLANTA. JUST OFF PONCE DE LEON AVENUE, BESIDE A MAIN TRAIL IN THE HEART OF DEEPENE PARK, A WHITE OAK SOARS ABOVE THE SURROUNDING GREENSPACE. USING DENDROCHRONOLOGY (A SCIENTIFIC METHOD OF DATING TREES BASED ON TREE RINGS), WE CAN TELL THAT THIS TREE DATES TO BEFORE THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

IF THIS TREE COULD TALK, WHAT A STORY IT WOULD TELL! IT'S GOT LARGE, WIDE SPREADING BRANCHES THAT ARE SLOWLY BEING SHADED OUT BY THE SURROUNDING FOREST. THIS TELLS US THAT THE TREE WAS ONCE LIVING IN THE OPEN WITHOUT COMPETITION, BUT THE FOREST SUBSEQUENTLY GREW BACK AROUND IT. THE TREE ALSO HAS AN ENORMOUS MUSCADINE GRAPE VINE DRAPED IN ITS CROWN. THIS NATIVE VINE LIVES IN HARMONY WITH THE TREE AND CREATES AN ALMOST ARTISTIC AESTHETIC.

I LIKE TO VISIT THIS TREE AND ADMIRE ITS EXTERNAL BEAUTY WHILE THINKING ABOUT HOW ATLANTA HAS CHANGED IN THE 250 YEARS SINCE THE ACORN SPROUTED. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE TIME TO VISIT THIS MIGHTY OAK, TO BE IN ITS PRESENCE AND ENJOY ITS MAJESTY. THOUGH NOT THE BIGGEST OR TALLEST WHITE OAK IN ATLANTA, IT'S LIVED A LONG LIFE AND WILL HOPEFULLY CONTINUE TO THRIVE AND BE ENJOYED BY HUMANS AND FOREST ANIMALS FOR MANY YEARS INTO THE FUTURE.

DO YOU HAVE A TREE THAT IS A CHAMPION? NOMINATE YOUR TREE TODAY AT [TREESATLANTA.ORG/OUR-PROGRAMS/-ATLANTAS-CHAMPION-TREES](https://treesatlanta.org/our-programs/-atlantas-champion-trees)



BY TREES ATLANTA'S CHAMPION TREES VOLUNTEER MANAGER, ELI DICKERSON



## 30,000 Hours!!

For the first time in our history, Trees Atlanta volunteers logged over 30,000 hours in a single year. Thousands of community volunteers worked at hundreds of projects across the city mulching, weeding, watering, pruning and planting the trees and plants that make Atlanta beautiful. The past year saw record participation from our wonderful group of individual, community and corporate volunteers. The work of these great supporters is testament to the passion for service and desire for a more shaded, walkable and healthier city. Thank you to everyone who helped preserve the canopy!

If you are interested in being a part of our next record-breaking year for volunteers, make sure you visit [treesatlanta.org/volunteer](https://treesatlanta.org/volunteer), complete a volunteer profile and keep an eye on our weekly volunteer e-mails for upcoming opportunities. We need your help—come lend a hand!

## Our Tree-mendous Treehouse Staff Members!



*Cathy  
Sudholt*

**Title:** Education Administrative Coordinator

**Hometown:** Arlington Heights, IL

**Favorite thing about Trees Atlanta:**

*Our shared passion to protect & improve our urban environment and draw communities together*



*Sabrina  
Attimy*

**Title:** Youth Education Coordinator

**Hometown:** Dacula, GA

**Favorite thing about Trees Atlanta:**

*Inspiring students to become environmental stewards*



*Colby  
Lyles*

**Title:** Youth Education Coordinator

**Hometown:** Gordon, GA

**Favorite thing about Trees Atlanta:**

*The opportunity to work with kids in the environment on a daily basis*



On October 15th, Trees Atlanta and Atlanta City Council will engage in Atlanta's first city-wide tree planting, "Plantlanta." The project will consist of a dozen tree plantings—one in every council district in the city, led by representatives from Trees Atlanta.

The event will leverage our partnerships with the City of Atlanta, various corporate allies, other non-profits, and community stakeholders, highlighting the diverse cross-section of supporters of our city's urban canopy. We hope that you will choose to be a part of this historic day by lending your support to make Atlanta neighborhoods across the city greener and more shaded. To sign up for Plantlanta, please visit [treesatlanta.org/plantlanta](http://treesatlanta.org/plantlanta). Thank you to City of Atlanta, WABE, and Crawford & Company for their support of this event!



**Saturday, October 1, 2016**

**8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Freedom Farmers' Market**

**at the Carter Center**

**453 Freedom Parkway, NE Atlanta, GA 30307**

Our 17th Annual Tree Sale will feature over 1,500 of the best native and exotic plants available — including 200 species of trees, shrubs, native perennials and tree-friendly vines that provide habitats for our furry and feathered friends.

Held rain or shine, proceeds benefit Trees Atlanta's planting and education programs. For more information visit [treesatlanta.org/treesale](http://treesatlanta.org/treesale). Those who donate more than \$250 to Trees Atlanta are invited to shop the sale early on "Tree Sale Eve," Friday, September 30th from 4 to 6 p.m. On September 29th, join us for a tree talk at 6:30 p.m., featuring Steve Sanchez, principal at HGOR.



# Youth Tree Team Completes Successful Season

Late July saw the season-end of the inaugural Youth Tree Team, a program launched by Trees Atlanta to employ and educate Atlanta high school students to help care for our urban forest. For seven weeks this summer, our Youth Tree Team weeded, watered, and mulched plantings along the Eastside trail, practicing teamwork, learning real life job skills and having a little bit of fun too!

The program, based on a model developed by Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, brought together students who attend different schools, but share an interest in trees and the environment. Represented schools included: Blackstone Academy Charter School, Booker

T. Washington High, Decatur High, and Grady High with students from every grade level. Funded in part by generous grants from Equifax, U-Haul, and The Conservation Fund, the Youth Tree Team learned tree identification, tree care, and prairie restoration and management. In addition, the team spent one day a week in an enrichment activity dedicated to professional and life skills.

We had a great time with our Youth Tree Team this year, and are already looking forward to working with next summer's group of participants! For information on the application process, please visit [treesatlanta.org/our-programs/youth-tree-team](https://treesatlanta.org/our-programs/youth-tree-team)



Photo by Pattie Baker

## Caring for Trees After a Hot Georgia Summer

Summertime can take its toll on the health of our trees, but by taking a few steps, you can ensure that your canopy survives and flourishes through even the most scorching of Georgia summers. Here are three things you can do:

### 1. Make sure your trees stay watered!

Water trees year round to make sure they're healthy over the summer. Longer, regularly scheduled waterings are better for your tree than frequent short and inconsistent waterings – newly planted trees need five gallons of water per 1" caliper of tree. Established trees need the equivalent of 2" of rain every 7-14 days.

2. **Mulch!** Keeping a 2"-4" layer of mulch around the roots of your tree will help prevent water loss and provide protection for the root zone. Avoid using dyed or cypress mulches.

3. **Protect the roots!** Avoid digging or planting in the critical root zone, which is a one foot radius for every 1" caliper of tree.

Want to learn more about tree care? Join our monthly Lunch & Learn sessions at the TreeHouse, held every second Thursday of each month at 12:00 PM. Check our website calendar for scheduled topics throughout the year.



## Tailgate for Trees



**Tailgate for Trees**  
Thursday, September 22, 2016  
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Venkman's  
740 Ralph McGill Blvd NE, Atlanta, GA 30312

Join The Nature Conservancy of Georgia and Trees Atlanta on Thursday, September 22 at Venkman's for "Tailgate for Trees," a casual gathering and friend-raiser to kick off the Atlanta tree planting season and thank our dedicated volunteers.

This year's Tailgate will feature delicious fare from Venkman's kitchen, liquid refreshments provided by Red Hare Brewing Company and live music by "If Trees Could Sing" artists.

Tickets are \$40. Proceeds from the event will support the missions of The Nature Conservancy and Trees Atlanta to protect Atlanta's urban canopy through conservation, planting and innovative programming like "If Trees Could Sing." To purchase tickets, please visit [treesatlanta.org/tailgatefortrees](http://treesatlanta.org/tailgatefortrees)

## Atlanta Canopy Conference

Atlanta Canopy Conference 2016  
Friday, September 23, 2016  
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Trees Atlanta Kendeda Center  
225 Chester Avenue SE, Atlanta, GA 30316

Get ready to "Bring the Arboretum Home" as Trees Atlanta hosts its first annual Atlanta Canopy Conference. Held at the Trees Atlanta Kendeda Center, this conference will educate, inform and inspire attendees while giving participants the tools to protect our urban canopy. The conference is for professionals, community leaders, and residents to take the lessons learned from the creation of the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum and apply them to their own projects while protecting our urban canopy.

Featuring a keynote by Darrel Morrison, FASLA, a pioneer in the use of native plants and natural processes in the design of landscapes, as well as conversations on topics ranging from soil, tree availability, design concepts, and our canopy as a civic identity, The Atlanta Canopy Conference will engage attendees' imaginations while educating them on successful designs for native plants in the urban landscape. Register today at: [treesatlanta.org/canopyconference](http://treesatlanta.org/canopyconference)



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March 4, 2016 - August 1, 2016

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# TREES ATLANTA

## Semi-annual Newsletter

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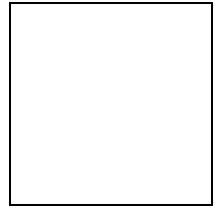
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or send your contribution in the enclosed  
envelope.



## Poached Persimmons

Recipe courtesy of Sara Moulton via FoodNetwork

There are two main varieties of persimmon: the acorn-shaped Hachiya and the squat, tomato-shaped Fuyu. Hachiya persimmons remain tart and chalky until they are extremely ripe, while Fuyu persimmons are sweeter and can be eaten while still firm. Our native persimmons are often used to replace bananas in recipes and can be found all over the city.

### Ingredients

- 6 firm-ripe Fuyu persimmons (about 1 1/2 pounds)
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 3/4 cup strained fresh orange
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon minced peeled fresh ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

### Directions:

Stem and peel the persimmons, discard any seeds, and cut each persimmon into 8 wedges. In a saucepan combine the persimmons, wine, orange juice, sugar, ginger, and cinnamon. Bring the liquid to a boil, stirring occasionally, and simmer the mixture, covered, for 15 minutes, or until the persimmons are tender. Transfer the persimmons with a slotted spoon to a bowl, boil the syrup until it is reduced to about 1/2 cup, and pour it over the persimmons. The persimmons may be served warm or chilled over ice cream, rice pudding, or bread pudding.

Persimmon trees will be available at the 17th Annual Tree Sale on Saturday, October 1st!

