

columbia green

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Trace Ballou President

Hello Members! What a year we've had! 2021 was a true time of transition for our organization regarding our scope of work, how we communicate, and also what we seek to accomplish in our Columbia community.

What have we done this year? We've formed new partnerships with like-minded groups: Gills Creek Watershed Association, with whom we partnered to assist in the Bradford Pear Bounty tree exchange; Habitat for Humanity, whose properties will feature our Green Square Mile trees; Lyon Street Community, with whom we are creating a Discovery Garden; and Melrose Heights Neighborhood, the site of our Green Square Mile kickoff campaign.

Together with Historic Columbia, City Forestry and Beautification, City Parks and Recreation, Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission, and various arborists and community activists, Columbia Green has accepted a new role as facilitator / administrator / organizer of a major grant to plant canopy trees in underserved communities. Each of these trees, to be planted in various publicly accessible sites, will memorialize women, men and groups whose actions strengthen and nourish their neighborhoods.

We've also initiated our own tree-planting program, the Green Square Mile, which seeks to plant trees on private property. To accomplish this, we are forming partnerships with neighborhoods to get community stakeholder involvement and buy-in. We chose Melrose Heights as our pilot neighborhood, and we've already begun planting there, and we look to expand into additional communities for 2022 and beyond. Our goal is to plant one square mile of canopy coverage, around 12,000 trees.

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IN MEMORIAM

With much sadness, but deep gratitude for all they did for Columbia Green, we note the passing of two outstanding members.

Amelia D. Cotty (1947-2021)

Beginning in 2009 Amelia was responsible for recruiting Master Gardeners to serve as docents for the Festival of Gardens. That initiative continues to the present and makes an important contribution to the success of the Festival.

Marian Davis (1931-2021)

Marian was a member of the founding Board of Columbia Green, (1984-1986) and the organization's first African American member. She served on the Board for an additional term (1991-1994) and remained a member for many decades thereafter.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT *Continued*

What else? To increase our credibility and organizational framework and function, we've upgraded our website, switched to a dedicated Columbia Green email account, and are using a Google Drive Business Suite to keep track of all committee activity and pertinent information. I commend our 2021 Board of Directors for working through a difficult time learning all the new technology that keeps us vital, current, and able to perform at our best. (And we thought Zoom was difficult!)

2021 was a success in every way. Our Festival of Gardens tour in Spring Valley raised \$14,000 that was promptly pledged to 6 applicants as Neighborhood Beautification and Tree Grants. And, to ensure that our tour could go on as planned during a year fraught with COVID quarantines, we hired Lee Ann Kornegay to produce a virtual video tour of the 7 gardens featured. A free link for that video appears in this newsletter: hope you enjoy it if you haven't seen it already!

This active year ended on a high note as we welcomed Jenks Farmer to our November annual meeting. His lecture about trees, created just for us, reinforced our commitment to increasing our urban canopy...and also gave us the courage to continue our motto of "Plant Small"...which is Jenks' first principle of tree planting.

What's next? The sky is our limit! How can you help?

First and foremost, we rely on the financial support of our membership, year in and year out, to keep us going. **Have you renewed your membership for 2022? If not, please renew here columbiagreen.org/become-a-member** OR, you may simply mail a check payable to Columbia Green to P.O. Box 50191, Columbia, 29250.

Want to give your time as well? We welcome our members to volunteer their time and expertise by serving on select committees. As our programming and partnerships grow, so does our need for individuals willing to meet, discuss strategies, plan gatherings, and take action where needed.

Interested? Please contact me: hello@columbiagreen.org Or, you can go to our website, columbiagreen.org, and click on "How You Can Help". Either way, do let us know!

I thank each of you for your continued support, either financial or in-kind. We would not be where we are without you. Cheers to an active, productive 2022!

Sincerely, and with Kind Regards,

Trace

Welcome To New 2022 Board Members

Sarah Barker

Toni Hubbell

Carol Isherwood

Betsy Russell

Kevin Smith

Lane Quinn

Second Term Board Members

Elaine Delk

Kristina Mandell

Austin Saggus

Retiring From The Board

Linda Hughes

Regina Monteith

Donna Williams

Jacqueline Williams



PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

2021 was an exceptional year for Columbia Green! We successfully launched 3 of our very own projects aimed at beautifying our city, promoting sustainable plantings, and educating our citizens about our natural environment. Two of these efforts are the result of grants awarded to us, and the third is our first-ever, CG-led city-wide initiative. **Here's where we are as 2022 begins:**



Green Square Mile (GSqMi)

Conceived during the pandemic lockdown of 2020, our goal is to plant appx 12,000 canopy and understory trees on res-

idential land by forming partnerships with neighborhoods to get stakeholder buy-in and participation. This past summer, we joined with our pilot community, Melrose Heights, to introduce our concept and understand their tree needs, which led to an October kick-off event at the home of Kandie and Patrick Wright, in whose yard we planted a lovely Yellow (Tulip)Poplar.

Our wish is to assist property owners in the creation of more shade, natural habitat, and landscape enrichment via an increase in neighborhood tree counts and diversity. To this end, we have compiled educational materials that will "certify" anyone who wants to participate in our GSqMi

program, and our hope is to serve our Columbia community by sharing our expertise and assistance in the selection, siting, and planting process. **You may find our GSqMi certification and application here:**

columbiagreen.org/application-certification



Work in progress at the Discovery Garden site!

Discovery Garden at the Marvin Heller Community Garden

At the end of 2020, Columbia Green applied for and received two grants, totalling \$6500, from The Central Carolina Realtors Association and the Central Carolina Community Foundation. During 2021, we partnered with the Lyon Street Community to listen and understand how we could improve and augment their existing Marvin Heller Community Garden at the corner of Gervais and McDuffie. Lyon Street Community residents want an educational area on-site that helps teach visitors, especially children, about pollinator plants, growing fruits and vegetables, native species, sustainability in the garden, and why it all matters.

Through many setbacks, we are happy to announce that this project is nearing completion. We have installed the basic structural elements of an ADA-compliant concrete walkway as well as a raised bed accessible to standing children and seated adults. Signage and other features, such as a compost bin and bee hotel, are on order, and we anticipate a March workday for our grand installation of permanent items and pollinator plants. Please stay tuned to your CG email updates for that date and celebration.

Memorial Tree Grant Initiative

2021 began with a partnership request from Historic Columbia to please join them in a city-wide tree-planting campaign to increase canopy cover in our underserved communities, most notably the “red-lined” neighborhoods discriminated against during the 20th Century. But this is a planting initiative with a twist: each of the 100 trees to be planted via this grant will memorialize a formerly unrecognized community leader. These trees will be planted in publicly accessible spaces within each neighborhood, and those who will be memorialized are people and groups whose actions have made their communities stronger and more resilient, past and present.

Our grant steering committee is: urban arborist Debbie Dickinson, City Forestry Superintendent Caleb King, Parks and Rec Assistant Superintendent Karen Kustafik, Historic Columbia Executive Director Robin Waites, CTAC representative Andrew Cheatham, nursery owner Rick Woodley, North Columbia Business Association Executive Director Sabrina Odom Edwards, community historian Regina Monteith, and Columbia Green’s Austin Saggus as project treasurer and Trace Ballou as project facilitator.



Plant it Forward | Trees are worth the investment

As 2022 begins, we have built relationships with 15 target communities from the 29201 and 29203 zip code areas. Currently, we are finishing up our “listening parties,” at which we gather memorial nominees and tree-site suggestions. We are selecting tree sites that will include spots in city parks, churchyards, school yards, and other greenspaces that will accommodate at least one canopy hardwood tree and bench beneath it. We will have a series of plantings and memorializations beginning this fall, and hope to conclude the project by year’s end.

These trees will be planted in publicly accessible spaces within each neighborhood, and those who will be memorialized are people and groups whose actions have made their communities stronger and more resilient, past and present.

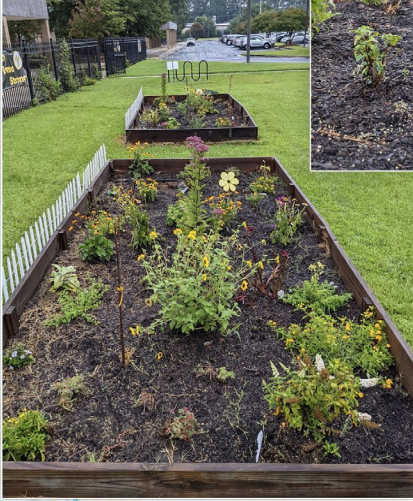
Columbia Green Partnerships:

City Forestry and Beautification, City Parks and Recreation, Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission, Gills Creek Watershed Association, Habitat for Humanity, Historic Columbia, Lyon Street Community, and Melrose Heights Neighborhood.

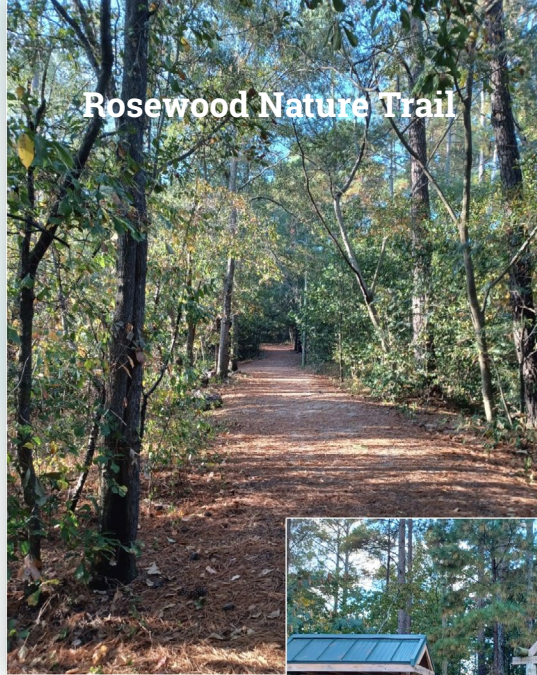


GRANTS PROJECTS COMPLETED

Irmo Middle School



Rosewood Nature Trail



Want more Details? [Click HERE](#) to learn all about our Grants Projects!

Rosewood Public Orchard



28TH ANNUAL
FESTIVAL OF GARDENS

The 2021 Festival of Gardens was held in the Spring Valley neighborhood where 7 lovely gardens were opened to our patrons. The gardens ranged in size from a small natural homegrown backyard garden to an immense multi layered mediteranean garden tended by professionals. The garden tour was made even more vibrant with the addition of several artists painting en plain air. It was a very successful tour that enabled Columbia Green to provide \$13,000 in new beautification and tree grants in October 2021. **We also produced a virtual tour lead by Master Gardeners. [Watch it HERE!](#)**

Left to Right: *Plain air artists, Cathy Love and Barbara Teusink, created beautiful paintings of the Bermuda Hills garden.*



Bermuda Hill Road



Northlake Road



Park Shore Drive



Spring Valley Road



Southlake Drive

Pond Ridge Road



North Ridge Road



MEMBERSHIP MIXER AT CITY ROOTS | AUGUST 2021



Melissa Ligon & Ola Helsing



Austin Saggus & Don McInnes



Susie Thorp & John Baynes



Friendly Honey River servers



Donna Jackson & Greta Bickley



Ellery Ballou & Trace Ballou



Trace Ballou & Sabrina Edwards



Elaine Delk & Brittany Childers



Dot Valentine & Regina Monteith



Lee Ann Kornegay



Jarrod Metz & Sarah Barker



Melissa Harper



Carol & Randall Isherwood,
Lynn Robertson & Trace Ballou



Austin Saggus, Marcel & Cathy Bagley, Phyllis McElveen,
Mehradd Vajdani, Trace Ballou & Emily Temples



Larry Rhu & Karen Murphy

GREEN SQUARE MILE KICK OFF

MELROSE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD | OCTOBER 2021

Randall Isherwood ▶
planting the yellow
poplar tulip tree



Above: Kandie & Patrick Wright



◀ Ian Hamilton
and daughter
Maggie



◀ Left to Right:
Lila McCullough,
Heather Preston
& Janet Merlins



BRADFORD PEAR BOUNTY TREE EXCHANGE



CLEMSON EXTENSION SANDHILLS | OCTOBER 2021





ANNUAL MEETING

MELROSE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD | OCTOBER 2021

Guest speaker, Jenks Farmer, entertained us with personal stories drawn from his abundant knowledge of trees.



Administrative assistant
Brittany Childers and
Trace Ballou



Communications Chair
Cathy Bagley and past
president Hillary McDonald



Artist in residence Melissa
Ligon and administrative
assistant Brittany Childers



Past president Susie
Thorpe and retiring board
member Linda Hughes

MEMBERS

PRESERVE

Mr. & Mrs. George Bailey
Joyce Hill
Jeanine Jacildone
Harriet McMaster
Dorothy "Dot" Poston

SUSTAIN

Denise Dickinsen
Jane Drake
Linda Hiltner
J. Michael & Bonnie Kapp
Hillary McDonald
Gail Morrison
Everett & Lynne Reynolds
Lynn Robertson
Ardis Savory
Emily Temples
Susie Thorpe
Tristan Weinkle
Eleanor "Katherine" Wells
Crape Myrtle Garden Club

NURTURE

Pam Adkins
Jean Arrants
Joan & Jim Assey
Cathy & Marcel Bagley
Sarah Barker
Vanessa Bialabreski
Nan Peterson Briggs
Hunter L. & Evelyn Clarkson
Elaine Delk
Martha Fowler
Kathryn Garrick
Barbara Hamilton
Vi Hendley
Betsy Kaemmerlen
George & Geraldine "Dene" King
Lee Ann Kornegay
Nancy S. Layman
Sara Lynn & Walter Marks
Donald McInnes

Trish McLaughlin
Deborah Prier
Lane Quinn
Betsy Russell
Austin Saggus
Anne Sinclair
Libby Thompkins
Nancy Williams

SPROUT

Allison Baker
Mary Ann Barnum
Maria Baucom
Ellen Blundy
Greta Bickley
Herrick Brown
Randy Dailey
Mary Anne Ehasz
Dayna Elliott
Susan C. Fedor
Polly Felton Morrison
Georgianna Graham
Anna Griswold
Jeffrey & Shawn Grover
John F. Hamilton
Flossie Harvie
Ola Helsing
Susan Hitchcock
Marilyn Hogan
Presley Hogue
Steve & Ann Holtschlag
Patrick Hubbard
Toni Goodwin Hubbell
Susan James
Gail Jeffcoat
Margaret Kherlopian
Kristina Mandell
Cynthia & Skip Mann
Deitra Matthews
Krysal Miller
Karen Murphy
Sylvia O'Boyle
Linda Orgain
Laura Prizzi
Sherri Redmond
Sien Rivera
Yvonne & Don Russell
Sandra Schmid
Kevin Smith

Nancy Taylor
Jenkins M. vonKolnitz
Shenine Wiggs
Elizabeth Wolfe
Ruth & Duane Yoch

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee

Trace Ballou, President
Elaine Delk, Vice President
Austin Saggus, Treasurer
Emily Temples,
Corresponding Secretary
Presley Hogue,
Recording Secretary
Susie Thorpe,
Past President/Advisor

Board Members

Cathy Bagley
Sarah Barker
Kathy Garrick
Ian Hamilton
Toni Hubbell
Carol Isherwood
Russ Jeter
Melissa Ligon
Kristina Mandell
Don McInnes
Betsy Newman
Betsy Russell
Kevin Smith
Lane Quinn

Caleb King,
City of Columbia Forestry &
Beautification Liaison

Regina Monteith,
Columbia Tree & Appearance
Commission Liaison

Keith Mearns,
Historic Columbia Liaison

Brittany Childers,
Administrative Assistant