Arborists champion student education (and trees) on Clemson campus

By Ellen Vincent, SC Director

Four arborists, 7,000 trees, 22,000 students, and 650 managed acres. These dynamic numbers are deftly dealt with on a daily basis on the Clemson campus in upstate South Carolina. The arborist team is committed to growing education as well as healthy trees. They contribute to classroom demonstrations 6-8 times per year and they are skilled and eloquent at quickly exposing student audiences to sound arboriculture practices. Their commitment to experiential learning has contributed to Clemson repeatedly earning Tree Campus USA designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Student engagement was encouraged this past year by moving the Arbor Day celebration to November so students could attend: The traditional Arbor Day in South Carolina is the first Friday in December when most students are immersed in final exams or have left school to return home for the winter break.

The arboriculture team is involved with faculty and the Clemson community through Creative Inquiry research projects, memorial tree plantings, Arbor Day celebration, internships, and in-class demonstrations. They manage a Tree Campus Committee that includes students, faculty, administrators, tree workers, and arboriculture consultants. Jordan Baylor, a senior horticulture major and student member of the committee, explains, “Clemson’s trees may be the basis behind the Tree Campus Committee, but the heart of the committee is to educate the student body. Most students are not aware of the significance of the incredible specimens on our campus. Our trees do benefit the student body aesthetically, but also environmentally, economically, and psychologically. Our campus arborists are dedicated and passionate about educating the student body, and students truly are the heart of our Tree Campus USA Committee meetings.”

Every semester, the campus arborists lead a tree-planting demonstration for my HORT 101 class. This fall the event was featured by CAFLS (College of Agriculture Forestry and Life Sciences) media and horticulture student Adam Parsons was interviewed and quoted: “Activities such as this improve learning because we get to see what can happen. We get to see what can go wrong and what can go right based on what we do. We can discuss things on a moment-by-moment basis and determine what is important for certain tasks and what is superfluous. Before this activity, I had no idea how trees were planted and I only had a vague idea of how they were cared for” (http://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-horticulture-landscape-services-teach-proper-tree-planting/). Students do not just listen during these demonstrations, they engage and experience. Adam was one of the students who sprang forward to grab a shovel to help backfill the planting hole.

Clemson’s core policies and plans involve tree protection, especially in construction sites. The Main Campus Urban Forest and Landscape Management Policy calls for zero net loss of tree canopy on the main campus through protection of existing trees and new tree plantings. Construction and renovation projects now call for an early walk-through with a campus arborist and a tree survey. A tree-protection plan is required for all construction that affects trees (www.clemson.edu/building-futures/landscape/).

Each arborist holds TRAQ qualification in addition to Certified Arborist. Paul Minerva is lead arborist and has worked for Clemson since 1998. He also holds Municipal Arborist Certification. His hometown is Long Island, NY, where he worked for Bartlett Tree Experts in South Hampton and owned his own business. He claims the South is enticing and a great place to raise his children.

Tyler Jones has been a member of the team since 2011 and is a Clemson native. He graduated with a MS in forestry degree from Clemson and always knew that his future would include trees. The

Continued on page 2
Good Afternoon William (LeCroy),

I didn't know who to contact to tell how pleased I am with the service that the CAT Building received concerning our power outage. Lisa (McElveen), Charlie (Poole), and Van (Hawkins) were so pleasant to work with as well as diligent in finding the cause of the problem.

Thank you very much!!

Sandy Head
Regulatory & Public Service Programs

Keith (Jones),

I want to sincerely thank you for your hard work and coordination to get the WiScape project moving forward. Your level of expertise and guidance in creating a solution now to get the system up and running as well as creating a platform for future information management has been key to pull us all together. You have been such a valuable part of this team and have gone above and beyond your typical duties to make the lighting management system a reality for Clemson.

You mentioned earlier that it was no big deal, but it is. Your efforts are making Clemson a safer campus for the entire community. Thank you for all that you have done and your commitment to see this through to a stable, redundant system. I look forward to working with you more in the coming weeks.

Best regards,
Katerina “Kat” Moreland
Parking and Transportation Services

Continued from page 1

high-quality institution plus the variety of tasks appeals to him, including student engagement.

Derek Ham joined the crew in 2005. He is son of the iconic Don Ham (featured in the Fall 2016 issue of the Southern Chapter News), so he was born into tree aristocracy and is a natural with woody plant management and machinery.

The newest team member is Bo Akinkuotu, who arrived in 2014. He came to Clemson via Morton Arboretum, which is testimony to the lure of the Clemson campus. Bo claims the Clemson campus resembles an arboretum, which made the move a smooth one for him. He earned a degree in horticulture from the University of Minnesota and he is decidedly grateful for the warm southern climate.
Congratulations Patricia Goss, admin assistant, Capital Projects, for completing your first 50 Mile Trail Run!

In her own words:

I have been a road runner for many years but converted to trail running this year. My first trail run was a half marathon, 13.1 miles. After completing this run, I knew road running was not my thing and I needed to challenge myself beyond this experience. I had been reading about Ultra Runners and their experiences running on trails, so I signed up for a 50-mile trail run. An Ultra is anything over 26.2 miles. This forced me to be committed and train hard. My first Ultra was January 2017 at Cloudland Canyon State Park in Georgia. This was the weekend we had the snow. The original trail run was to be 50 miles but was converted to a 31-mile run due to snow and ice. Disappointed my goal was not met, I signed up for the Lake Martin 50 Miler.

On Saturday March 19-2017, I ran my first 50 mile trail run at Lake Martin, Alabama. It took me 14.23 hours to complete! This was an experience which went beyond anything I could comprehend. It took me two weeks to process what my mind and body had accomplished. My friend Elaine Thomas and I started at 6:45 a.m. and I completed the run at 9:13 p.m. The last 7 miles of the course were in the dark, and headlamps were required. I never thought I could do a run in the dark! At this point my legs were like rubber bands. My foot slipped and I fell down an embankment, my headlamp went out, I luckily was stopped by a log, otherwise I would have kept sliding. Keep in mind, at this point no one else was around. I totally panicked but quickly composed myself. I fumbled to get my headlamp back on and was soon back on my feet hitting the trail and making my way up Turtle Hill. Even though the trails are marked, it can be deceiving, especially in the dark. I was so happy to see the finish line!!!

Last week I received a package in the mail from Southeastern Trail Runners. When I opened the package, to my surprise was a plaque for my completion of the Lake Martin 50 Miler which reads: “Grand Masters Female 50 Mile Race.”

Now for my next goals -- 62 miles in October and possible 100 miles next year?

Congratulations Sharon Hall, admin assistant, Capital Projects, for completing your first 50 Mile Trail Run!

New Hires

Victoria Bourff Custodial/Recycling
Daniel Foster Maintenance
Mark Hudson Central Area
Lane Mauldin Maintenance

Birthdays

April
4/2 Ben Bottoms
4/3 Jarvis Dennis
4/4 Vicki Durham
4/4 Rick Owens
4/5 Misty Harrison
4/7 Joe Hightower
4/8 Tom Minor
4/8 Bret McCarley
4/8 Carl Austin
4/8 Tony Cantrell
4/9 Bo Akinkuotu
4/9 Charlie Poole
4/10 Tanya DeOliveira
4/11 Tim Nix
4/13 Jeff Baker
4/16 Marlin Norris
4/19 Ronald Poore
4/21 Judy Austin
4/22 Gary Whitter
4/22 Brady Massey
4/22 Mary Whitter
4/24 Victoria Bourff
4/27 Terry Green
4/28 Edna Sims
4/28 Melanie Brooks
4/29 Ashley Reynolds

May
5/1 Van Hawkins
5/3 Don Brewer
5/4 Daniel Foster
5/4 Paul Borick
5/5 Steven Chappell
5/7 Bobby Roach
5/7 David Martin
5/8 Robin Newberry
5/9 Bryson Thomas
5/9 Brenda Crowe
5/9 Dennis Holt
5/12 Kirk Hunter
5/12 Russ Coker
5/14 Ben Quarles
5/14 Dan Huisenga
5/20 Larry Kastner
5/22 Tim Harvey
5/22 Louis Lacio
5/23 Bertie Carter
5/24 Cynthia Owens
From Todd:

What a great picnic! I hope you all enjoyed our recent picnic at the Owen Pavilion as much as I did. Judging from the responses I have heard, I think you did. I appreciate everyone who has taken the time to thank me for the great event, but that appreciation is deserved by others. Of course, that includes Colleen and all involved in planning and setting up. However, the biggest thanks goes to all of you that, through your efforts each day, earned the respect and admiration of so many on campus and made it possible for us to take advantage of such a beautiful location to enjoy great food and fellowship.

The comment I heard most often is that everyone seemed to appreciate the new location, particularly with the threat of rain! I am grateful to our friends at the Madren Conference Center for making the Pavilion available. The fine staff there went out of their way to accommodate us to show their gratitude for the support they receive each day from landscaping, maintenance and all other areas of University Facilities. I keep seeing it over and over; the campus appreciates this department much more than any of us will ever realize. Please take pride in that and do all you can to maintain that goodwill with all of those we serve.

Now, let’s get ready for Summer! It’s vacation time for many, but anything but that for all of us in University Facilities. It is estimated that we will do over 40 projects this summer that will cause significant disruption to the campus, in addition to many others that will be more localized. Among the larger efforts will be safety improvements such as signals and pedestrian crossings, classroom door locks, and resurfacing of the Library Bridge. We also take on the relocation of the Visitors Center, enhancing the entrance to the Brooks Center, the renovation of Fernow Street Café for Chick-fil-A, four elevator overhauls and four reroofing projects. That doesn’t even touch on larger projects like the continuation of Douthit Hills, the Clemson House Demolition, and the beginnings of the multi-year electrical distribution upgrades. These projects, and many others, belong to all of us in University Facilities. Please don’t ever hesitate to make suggestions on how we can accomplish these efforts more safely and with as little disruption to the campus as possible. We need everyone’s eyes as we continue to serve the daily needs of this campus while accomplishing wonderful transformations to prepare it for the future.

Thanks for all you do!

Todd