

Hardie named 'Good Neighbor of the Year'

At the annual meeting of the Converse Heights Neighborhood Association, Newt Hardie was presented with the Good Neighbor of the Year award.

Hardie is the founder and leader of the **Trees Coalition** (formerly the **Kudzu Coalition**), and is a well-known environmentalist, teacher and preserver of native trees.

According to Alyson Campbell, chair of the association, this award is designed to say "thank you" to someone who goes beyond the expected into the exceptional to help make Converse Heights "safe, beautiful, and fun."

Past years' winners have been: Roger Milliken, Dr. Bob Watson, Lindsay and Billy Webster, Trinity United Methodist Church, Kevin Parris and Jay Moore, Patrick Anderson, Cal Wicker and Grey Wicker.

In presenting the award, CHNA Board member Wesley Hammond cited these quotes from Hardie:

"Men are supposed to have dominion, but the kudzu is taking over."

"If trees could talk, they would say thank you very much."

"This is our perimeter. We took it back from the enemy."

"If you are not involved, let's talk!"

Hammond commended Hardie for his guidance and encouragement and added that Hardie has saved countless trees, educated and inspired hundreds of people, and provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in time and labor to improve the natural environment of Converse Heights and Spartanburg.

The award carries a \$100 prize, which Hardie donated to the Crystal Springs Ravine Improvement Fund.