

# Trees Coalition looking for more volunteers

From staff reports

The **Trees Coalition**'s is continuing its main focus to teach how to (maintain areas) save native trees across Spartanburg County. Within the last 30 days, the group has received help from a variety of volunteers and is looking for others to join them.

The group does not plant trees in new spaces. The team focuses on taking care of native trees already here. Work conducted by the

Trees Coalition includes removing invasive vines such as kudzu and wisteria, invasive trees such as Tree of Heaven and mimosa, and invasive shrubs such as privet and Elaeagnus – all of which damage or stress native trees. Often pruning and mulching can help the trees as well.

The Trees Coalition is an expansion of the Kudzu Coalition, a group that pioneered herbicide-free kudzu removal. It is a mix of volunteers and paid landscapers who

train and work alongside neighborhoods, churches and businesses to provide help in caring for their trees.

Here is an example of some of the people who have participated in the last 30 days:

Advisors: Kathy Dunleavy, Susan Dunlap, Mark Ford, Max Hyde, John Lane, John Montgomery, Melvin Norwood, Kevin Parris, Laura Ringo, Renee Romberger  
Pen Pals (Envelope addressers): Mary

Ann Deku, Meg Evatt, Prafull Gajendragadkar, Martha & Mort Sams, Allene Taylor  
Eagle eye scouts (Spotting bad areas, etc.): Dr. Merike Tamm, Everett Powers

Content providers (sent us pertinent "stuff"): Dory Davis, Melvin Norwood, Lynn Springfield

Regular Correspondents – Questions/answers/comments: Jan Caldwell, Stanford McMillian, Betty Montgomery, Kevin

Parris, Caroline Phillips  
Computer Gurus: Dr. Lou Adams, Celia Cooksey, Tiffany Hughes, Donna Pruitt, Freddy Ruehl, Tommy Steed

Star wars (GPS help): Zach Blackwood

Cut ups (Grass mowers): Jim Anderson, Charles McKenzie, Melvin Norwood, Dr. Bob Reynolds

Field leaders (Outstanding in their fields): Phil Abers, Don Crowder, Steve Patton, Dr. Fern Powell, Alan Pruitt, Dr. Bob

Reynolds, Dr. Dick Schelat, Dr. John Scott

Speakers: Phil Abers, Dr. Dick Schelat, Steve Patton

Volunteers are always needed to help with various parts of the group's mission – indoors and outdoors. The biggest equipment needs now are for volunteers with a Bobcat, bush hog, and/or riding mowers. To receive the group's newsletters or for more information, call 864-582-0990 or visit [treescoalition.org](http://treescoalition.org).