

SpotLights

Lights Volunteers: Connecting to a World of Service

June/July 2015

Growing A Farm

by Leslie Ann Schwarzer

On any given day as you travel to and from campus along University Drive you will see a high tunnel or “hoop house” behind Alabama, one of Southern’s lower state-side apartments. Recently the area has become known as Thatcher Farm—a seasonal row-crop garden. At the moment, farm manager Seth Shaffer, is transitioning crops of lettuce, kale, arugula, and Swiss chard to tomatoes, peppers, squashes, eggplants, cabbages, beets, garlic, snap peas, and strawberries. In the fall, offerings will include greens as well as radishes, turnips and carrots.

Currently, Thatcher Farm sells its produce to The Farmer’s Daughter, a downtown Chattanooga restaurant, the Bald Headed Bistro in Northeast Cleveland, as well as Southern’s Food Service. It also sells at the Chattanooga Market (Red Clay Farm’s booth) as well as to its Southern family—and the response has been excellent.



One of Shaffer’s year-end goals is to see the farm providing produce to two additional restaurants in the Chattanooga area and to Southern’s on-campus Community Tree Food Pantry. “I think this is a realistic goal—especially for summer and fall when we have tons of squash, pepper, tomato and cucumber plants...”

Next year’s plan includes doubling the growing area. And while Thatcher Farm isn’t certified organic, all of its seeds and any amendments incorporated into the soil are approved for organic use. Shaffer’s dream is to witness Thatcher Farm become certified organic within the next few years. His long term goal envisions Southern offering an agriculture major.

If interested in getting some hands-on experience as a volunteer gardener, contact volunteer@southern.edu or x2555. If interested in purchasing produce or plants on a first-come, first-serve basis, email Seth at sshaffer@southern.edu and ask to be put on his distribution list.



Farm manager Seth Shaffer and Lights Volunteer James Peel discuss Thatcher Farm’s garden layout

SAVE THE DATE

August

- 20 Lights Volunteer Reception
5:30 p.m.
Bietz Lawn

September

- 15 Lights Volunteer Luncheon
11:30 a.m.
Presidential Banquet Room

October

- 29 Alumni Homecoming
Weekend begins

November

- 17 Lights Volunteer Luncheon
11:30 a.m.
Presidential Banquet Room

Decorating of Lynn Wood Hall
1:00 p.m.
Lynn Wood Hall Lobby/Porch

December

- 01 Christmas Tree Lighting
6:30 p.m.
Taylor Circle
- 18 Christmas Break Begins
through January 10, 2016

2015 Annual Outing

by Carole Kilcher

By declaration of the President of the United States, April has been designated National Volunteer Month, a time when corporations and organizations highlight the enormous contributions volunteers make every day. The Lights Volunteer Office at Southern Adventist University selects a day during the month of April to host a special event to honor its 114 active volunteers and to publically present the Volunteer Commitment Award to one of the University's volunteers.

This year the volunteers met at the University Church parking lot to board two of Southern's 56-passenger buses. The group then traveled to Market Street in Chattanooga where they transferred from the bus to a Chattanooga Duck, one of three authentic WWII amphibious landing crafts that had been built by women specifically for the D-Day invasion.

Each Duck Captain gave safety instructions to his passengers. The awkward-looking vehicle then motored on land for the short trip to Ross' Landing where each Duck splashed one-after-the-other into the Tennessee River. Once on the River, the Ducks

operated on water like a boat. The Captain shared many historical and ecological facts about the River and the Chattanooga Waterfront.

After the hour-long tour the Ducks joined other land vehicles and drove the volunteers to their next treat—lunch at the Maple Street Biscuit Company on Broad Street.

Arrangements had been made with the café to serve Southern's group after the regular lunch-time hours.

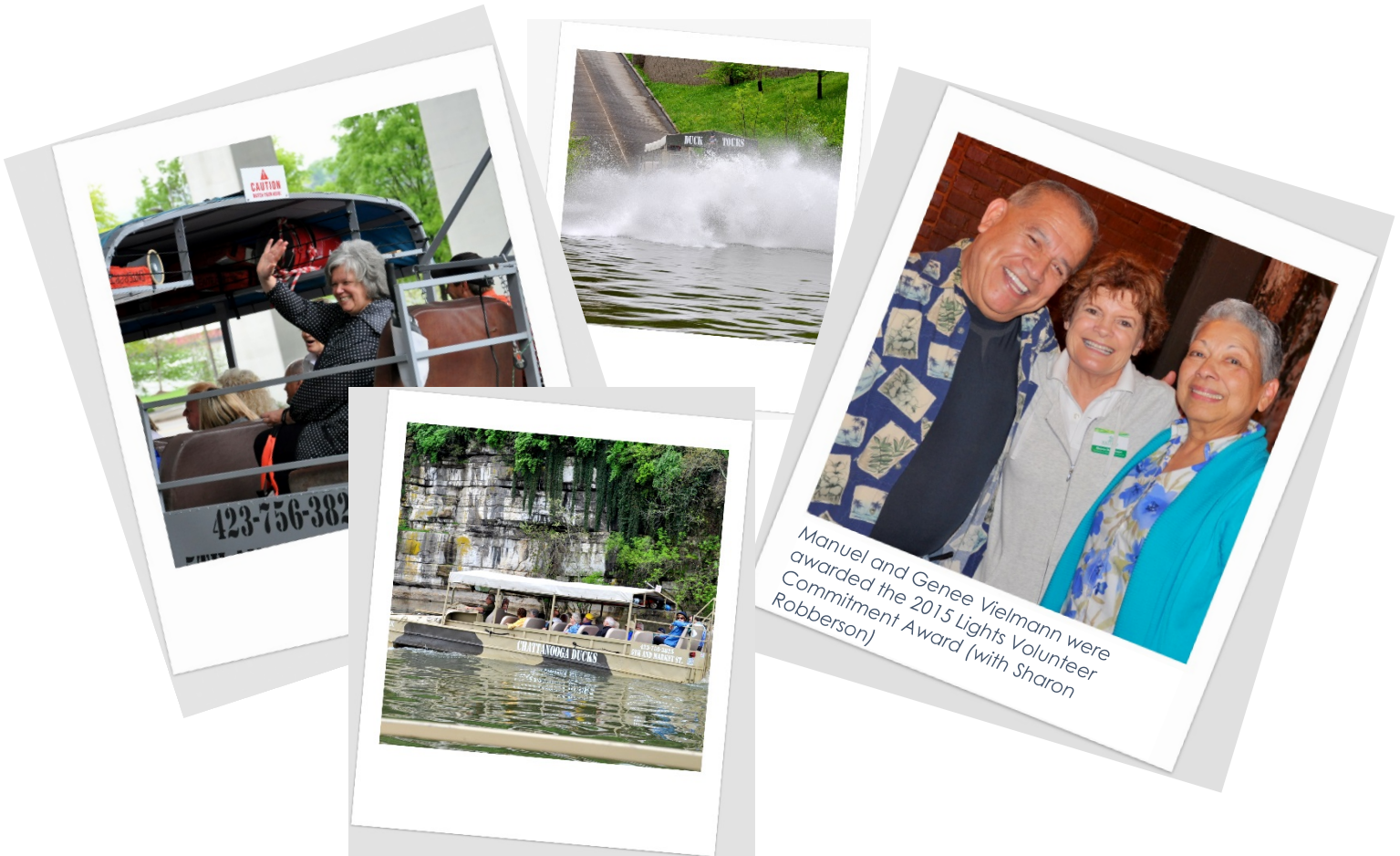
Because of the large number of people, a vegetarian buffet-style service allowed everyone to sample a variety of biscuit sandwiches and toppings as well as sweet potato fries, fried

green tomatoes, and iced cinnamon biscuits

While everyone was eating, Sharon Robberson and Leslie Ann Schwarzer shared their appreciation for each volunteer but asked Manuel and Genee Viemann to come forward. The couple was presented with the Volunteer Commitment Award for their hours of service in 2014. Others mentioned for total cumulative hours served were: Odil Donesky (634.07), Chad Martz (522.73) and Corinne Fetingis (496.72).

2014-15 Lights Volunteer Statistics

Number of active volunteers	110
Number of hours volunteered	7671
Value of hours volunteered	\$173,821



Volunteer Opportunities

Call Leslie Ann Schwarzer at 423-236-2555 if you're interested in any of the opportunities listed below.

July

- 02 *Collegedale Independence Day Preparations*
- Drive golf carts from campus to Veterans' Memorial Park early in the day
 - Assist with parking control at event (based on your availability)
- 26 *We-Haul* ([Click here](#) to register)
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Residence Halls
Help students move into the dorms

August

- 18 *We-Haul* ([Click here](#) to register)
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Residence Halls
Help students move into the dorms
- 23 *Organizational Showcase*
4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Iles Gymnasium
Serve supper
- 23 *School of Social Work MSW Event*
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Ackerman Auditorium Lobby
Assist with setting up refreshments and clean-up

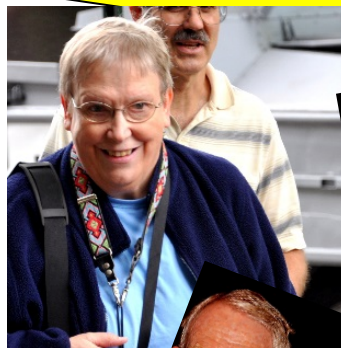
Happy Birthday!

June

04 David Patterson
07 Drew Underwood
09 Tania Barry
10 John Durichek
13 Millie Hickman
15 Ruth Lemon
16 David Dungan
28 Felipe Granada

July

01 Jeannette Taylor
02 Carol Peden
09 James Peel
12 Midge Phibbs
26 Carol Guild
27 Ken Norton, Sr.



Announcements

Lights Volunteer Shirts

If you ordered a new blue Lights Volunteer shirt, it is waiting for you in the volunteer office—Lynn Wood Hall, Room 1005. Call Leslie @ 423-236-2555 before you come to make sure she'll be in her office.

Something Free

You may reserve the Student Park Pavilion free of charge as long as you will be present at the event. Call 423-236-2555 to make arrangements.

Tuition-Free or Discounted Classes this Fall

Once you have volunteered a cumulative total of 200 volunteer hours you are eligible to audit a class tuition free (up to a three-hour class per semester) or pay half tuition for a 1-3 hour credit class. If you're going to enroll in any kind of class this Fall as a Lights Volunteer, please let Leslie know by calling 423-236-2555. There is an application to complete and an add/drop form the instructor has to sign. A list of names will also have to be submitted to the Records Office once you have actually enrolled. We want to ensure you don't get charged full (or partial) tuition when you shouldn't. Thank you!