



Resident Greg Bourges

GFC Lends a hand to TreeAge and The Root Center

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Representatives of Gallagher, Flynn & Company, LLP (GFC), of South Burlington, spent its fourth annual community service project lending a hand to South Burlington's TREEage and The Root Center. Both organizations are located on the grounds at 1100 Dorset Street which is also the home of 140 acres of land and woods constituting Wheeler Nature Park. On August 24th, the accountants and staff of GFC traded in their 10-key calculators for pruning shears, donned their gardening gloves, and dug in to make a difference in the community.

Working under the guidance of Marie Ambusk, leader of project TREEage, and Craig Lambert, South Burlington's City Arborist, the volunteers weeded the gardens, mulched and staked trees on the grounds. Founded in 2007, TREEage is a volunteer outreach

project supported by Extension Master Gardener, SOUL and GE Volunteer programs. Their main objective is to promote the best maintenance practices as stewards of our urban trees. In 2008, the organization began the Community Nursery at Wheeler Nature Park, which is now at capacity with 200 trees. The realization of the organization's hard work is tangible: this year 10 trees from the nursery can be seen on greenbelts throughout our community.

"We are so very thankful to the folks at GFC for their Community Day project here at Wheeler Nature Park," said Ambusk, "It was a great collaboration with GFC, The Root Center, TREEage, NGA and the City. [This is] the type of event we hope to replicate with other businesses or groups who also believe in giving back to the community in this way." (For more information about the organization or to volunteer, please contact www.TREEage.org.)

While some GFC employees helped TREEage, a group of firm volunteers worked with Robin Shulte at The Root Center, weeding the vegetable gardens and assisting in preparing the produce for harvest. The Root Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to solving the basic needs of society by providing food, water, shelter, energy and by involving the community to solve these problems with local solutions. The Root Center has also partnered with the National Gardening Association to grow 25,000 pounds of produce for the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf at a 1/2 acre public garden site, among many other community-oriented programs. (For more information or to volunteer, please visit www.therootcenter.org or email volunteer@therootcenter.org).

GFC is dedicated to giving back to the community and encourages its employees to volunteer and become involved in non-profit organizations and activities. Once a year, GFC employees band together to donate their time and assist a local non-profit organization for an afternoon.

SOURCE: GFC

