

## WRRD critical to Auburn's sustainability practices



*From left, Waste Reduction & Recycling's Anthony Green and Anthony Lewis move several 95-gallon recycling cans before A-Day on April 17. As campus continues to grow, the amount of recyclables and garbage regularly collected also grow, meaning there's more work to do to keep Auburn University clean and beautiful, and WRRD continues looking for new ways to better serve the Auburn community. Photo: Joan Hicken*

The people behind Auburn's Waste Reduction & Recycling make a regular habit of playing in the trash.

Whether collecting garbage from the numerous campus receptacles, assisting offices with shredding files or cleaning out, or properly separating recyclables for collection, WRRD keeps Auburn clean and beautiful.

And it's quite a job. There are more than 400 trash bins that have to be emptied, 57 Big Belly units and hundreds of large containers for solid waste and various recyclables like paper, plastic and aluminum. None of these numbers include the trash compactors, dumpsters and roll-offs that sit under their care as well.

"Auburn University's Waste Reduction and Recycling Department is working

to increase the university's efforts to be more sustainable," WRRD Manager Joan Hicken said. "We use integrated solid waste management techniques to manage our solid wastes. This is a strategic approach to sustainable waste management including activities like waste reduction, recycling, and landfilling."

Last year, the small WRRD crew collected more than 2,978 tons of waste. At the same time, they also collected and recycled more than 147 tons of paper; 302 tons of cardboard; 29 tons of plastic, aluminum and steel; 43 tons of scrap metal and about three tons of toner and ink jet cartridges. That's more than 524 tons of items diverted from landfills to be recycled and reused.

"Recycling begins with a choice, and

that choice impacts the university's recycling program," Hicken said. "The right choice leads to better recycling rates, and environmental and economic benefits. The wrong choice leads to poor recycling rates, contamination and higher costs. Having students, staff and faculty make the right choice is important to the success of a recycling program."

Recycling will always play an important role on campus, particularly in April as the world celebrates Earth Day on April 22. Each year, WRRD joins together with the University Program Council, the Department of Geosciences and the Office of Sustainability to hold a special event on the Campus Green outside Jordan-Hare Stadium.

The campus groups host special games and provide information and food for students on campus to better educate them about the current needs of the planet and what we can do to support the community.

"Earth Day serves as a reminder of how fragile our planet is and how important it is to protect it," Hicken said. "Simple changes can make a difference in reducing the amount of waste we produce and promoting a cleaner, greener campus. Carry a refillable water bottle. Bring your own reusable shopping bags. Say no to plastic bags and plastic straws. Print on both sides of the paper. Never litter. Recycle."

# Employee Communications *from the Office of Employee Engagement*

## **Congratulations:**

Grant Kirby (plant operations) for defending his thesis in pursuit of his master's degree in electrical engineering from Auburn. Grant will graduate this semester.

Plant operations technicians for getting their NIULPE 5th Class Power Engineers certifications:

- **Danny Barreto**
- **Mark Stokes**
- **Andra Thomas**

Plant operations technicians for getting their NIULPE 4th Class Power Engineers certifications:

- **Daniel Brand**
- **Grant Kirby**
- **James Lyons**

Jecorius "Corey" Johnson, Tech II, Waste Reduction and Recycling, on the birth of his baby boy, born March 16, 2021.

162 Facilities employees received a cash award for March 2021.

Teresina Muhammad, Work Management, who celebrated 23 years with Facilities Management on April 1, 2021.

Darrin Moody for receiving Maintenance Supervisor of the Quarter.

Employees for receiving Maintenance Value Coins:

- **Brett Elder – Teamwork**
- **Tripp Thrash – Teamwork**

## **New Employees/Welcome**

**Eric Newman** | Tech I, HVACR, PM Shop  
March 29

## **Retirements/resignations**

**Marvin Smith** retired effective April 1.

**Joey Vickers** retired effective April 1.

**William Tatum** retired effective May 1.

**David Merritt** resigned effective April 16.

## **Facilities Training**

### **Contact for training sessions:**

Kathleen Jones | [ktj0004@auburn.edu](mailto:ktj0004@auburn.edu) | 334-844-9411 | Building 1, Room 1173D

The training calendar can be found at <https://aub.ie/trainingcalendar>.

## **Employment Opportunities**

### **OUA**

- Campus Architect III/IV/V (*no close date*)

For more information about, or to apply for, the job listed above, visit the Auburn University online employment site at [auemployment.com](http://auemployment.com).

These announcements are gathered by the Facilities Management Office of Employee Engagement. Submit announcements via email to Cynthia Baccus at [geercyn@auburn.edu](mailto:geercyn@auburn.edu).

## **Joey Vickers retires**



Joey Vickers, Construction, retired in March after more than 10 years of service at Auburn. The picture shown is of Joey and his family during his retirement party held on Friday, March 26. Congratulations, Joey! **Photo: Staci Taylor**

## **Great job, Larry!**



Facilities electrician Larry Burt was preparing to install an underground circuit for an emergency phone near the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art recently when he noticed a turtle caught in a manhole drain. Burt stopped what he was doing to rescue the reptile and place it back near the lake in front of the museum. **Photo: Travis Tally**

# March 2021 Shredding Day a success



Employees of Waste Reduction & Recycling shredded more than 8,100 pounds of paper during March's Shredding Day. From left are Margrit Tate, Anthony Green, Oscar Preston and Robert Whittaker. Photos: Joan Hicken

## Length of Service Awards

The award reflects Auburn University's appreciation for its employees dedicated years of service and is a symbol of personal and professional achievements. Congratulations to all.

### 5 Years of service:

- John Berry
- David Bess
- Walter Brooks
- Therence Bryant
- Derrick Bullard
- John Clark
- William Dempster
- Margaret Dennis
- Paul Dickinson
- Richard Eller
- Rocio Evans
- William Goggans
- Phillip Gohman
- Alexander Hedgepath
- Travis Herrmann
- Niesha Hinds
- Nina Hollingsworth
- Alan Lindsay
- Blake Lloyd
- Lewando McGruder
- Eric Moon
- Mason Morgan
- Steven Neighbors
- Garrett Nixon
- Cory O'Neal
- Robert Parham
- James Penny
- Mark Pierce

- Bradley Prater
- Bruce Reid
- Sarah Smith
- Richard Speir
- Staci Taylor
- Willie Trimble
- Anne Wilbourne
- Edwin Wood

### 10 Years of service:

- Stephen Akers
- Donald Barron
- Ricky Birchfield
- Audrey Bryan
- Michael Cobb
- Anthony Driver
- Donna Giles
- Judy Hazelrigs
- James Hix
- Joshua Lane
- Steven Lloyd
- David Merritt
- Gregory Powell
- Ashley Sharpe
- Anthony Smith
- Nolan Torbert
- Burke Wagoner
- Cecil Willett
- Nathan Wohleb

### 15 Years of service:

- James Kerr
- Billy Lewis
- Wesley Miller
- Christopher Potts

### 20 Years of service:

- Carol Cadenhead
- James Duncan
- Zilun Fan
- James Lyons
- Evelyn Philpot
- Victoreold Walker

### 25 Years of service:

- Cherry Buckhannon
- Emma Bynum
- Maurice Jackson
- William Ledbetter
- David Morgan
- Arnold Pattillo
- Richard Pitts
- Jonathan Sandlin
- Klint Weldon
- Carderian Williams

### 30 Years of service:

- Reta Jackson
- Gloria Parker

# Azaleas blanket Auburn's spring landscape

Campus is home to: 24 azalea species and 5,650 azaleas on campus



Photos: Justin Sutton

## Landscape Services updates College of Veterinary Medicine landscaping



Landscape Services put their green thumbs to the test to provide a much needed makeover to the College of Veterinary Medicine sign, adding annual color and a place for graduates to take photos. Involved in the makeover were Kirk Cogle, Mike DeLaCruz, Brittany Foster, Forrest Hall, Daniel Keeble, David Morgan, Michael Sanford, Braxton Short, Stephen Stroud and John Vollor.  
Photos: Justin Sutton