



## Lean, Mean and GREEN

### Save Water/Save Money/Save Georgia

By Dan White

In a time of exceptional drought it is incumbent on everyone to try to conserve water in our daily lives. There are several very easy and inexpensive things that can be done around the house that can significantly reduce water consumption. Most people know that watering grass accounts for a significant portion of many families water bill. While outdoor sprinkler watering is presently banned perhaps it's time to consider long term alternatives to large grassed yards that require regular watering. Mulched planting beds with drought resistant native plants are an attractive alternative. Most plants native to Georgia are more drought resistant than other plants because periods of drought are common here and these plants have adapted to periods without regular watering.

Moving inside the home, there are several easy techniques that can significantly reduce water consumption. Installing an on/off valve between the shower head and the supply pipe coming from the wall allows a bather to lather up without the water running and rinse off without having to re-adjust the water temperature settings. These pushbutton valves cost less than \$5, install in minutes with a simple pair of pliers, and could easily save 50% of water consumed in a normal shower. Another easy thing to do while waiting for the water to warm up to take your shower is to collect the cool water in a small bucket and use it for flushing the toilet. Each time you do that you'll save a couple of gallons of water with no effort at all.

Since older toilets consume more water than newer models changing out the toilets are a long term option for all homeowners with homes built before 1993. This however can cost a couple hundred dollars and may not be in your immediate budget. A more immediate and affordable solution is installing water dams for toilets and are available at home improvement stores. These devices are very inexpensive and can cut 50% of water consumed per flush in an older toilet.

After looking at usage patterns in a variety of single family homes I have come to realize that individuals who use between 1 and 1.5 ccf per person are generally conserving water efficiently without going to extremes to do so. One ccf equals 750 gallons of water. Check your water bill for your total consumption in ccf (unit of measurement stated on your bill), divide by the number of people in your household and see if you fit within that range. If not, try some of the tips above.

Speaking of GREEN... The green color in Frazer Center creek recently was a result of Dekalb Water department testing their system for leaks.

## The Solid Waste Services Initiative, City of Atlanta Improved Services - Effective March 3, 2008

Lake Claire will have trash, recycling and yard waste pick-up on Thursdays.

Atlanta's population has grown significantly over the past 10 years. To ensure efficient, timely and safe collection of solid waste from all customers, DPW determined a need to redistribute households into more balanced service areas, which will result in new collection days for most of Atlanta's residents. This, among other city-wide process improvements that will streamline and improve waste collection services, will commence on March 3, 2008.

### Most noticeable changes:

- You'll notice more balanced collection routes, evenly distribut-

ing customer collections Monday through Friday, and new collection days for most customers.

- Garbage, recycling and yard waste will be collected weekly on your designated collection day.



- For bulk waste, collection requests will be fulfilled more quickly, within one week from the date called.

- Sanitation workers will adhere to the guideline that yard waste may only be set out in paper yard waste collection bags or a container clearly labeled "yard trimmings. Yard trimmings will not be collected in plastic bags.

## Coming to a Street Near You . . .

### Lake Claire's FIRST "Love Thy Neighbor" Progressive Dinner Party - March 29

Lake Claire neighbors: let's get to know each other and what better way to do that than with good food and drink! Your LC Neighborhood Association is pioneering the first 'Love Thy Neighbor' progressive dinner party on Saturday, March 29th. The idea is to provide a fun and entertaining opportunity for Lake Claire neighbors to meet and mix in a purely social situation.

Here is how it is going to work. Everyone is invited to come to a sequence of four homes in the LC neighborhood for a "progressive dinner" (i.e., a dinner that starts at one home and then moves on to the others). Each home will

*Dinner (cont'd on page 3)*

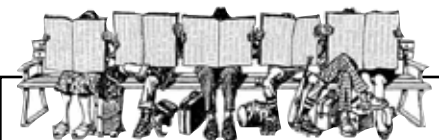
## Volunteers Needed for Electronics Recycling

By Scott Thompson

The Spring 2008 Decatur Electronics Recycling Day is coming up . . . so don't throw away that old PC or printer, save it and recycle it. This semi-annual event has been hugely successful at diverting electronic equipment from landfills where they may contaminate soil and water. Batteries, Styrofoam and mercury thermometers will also be accepted. This season's event takes place Saturday, March 29 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Decatur High School parking lot, on the corner of N. McDonough Street and Howard Avenue.

*Volunteers (cont'd on page 6)*

## Pet's Dig The Clarion Too!



## What's Inside?

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- Sanitation workers will observe the guideline that only 5 additional bags of garbage will be collected in addition to the contents of your Herbie Curbie.

### Benefits to the City:

The new collection improvements will benefit citizens by:

- Creating a more cost-efficient collection process
  - Streamlining and balancing collection services
  - Improving customer service
  - Supporting the City's commitment to environmental awareness
  - Creating a safer, cleaner, "greener" community
  - Establishing long-term improvements in operations and
- Service (cont'd on page 2)*

## Lake Claire Security Report

*January-February Crime Stats (weeks 2-5 2008) for Lake Claire  
Keep an Eye on the Crime and the Time!*

### Residential Burglary

Thursday - 1/31-daytime - 500 block Harold Avenue - back door to home found open and property missing. Owner not sure if she locked the door. There were no signs of damage to the door but 2 to 3 sneaker prints were found on the glass. Various electronic equipment taken. Prints attempted.

Tuesday - 1/22-daytime - 200 block Casson- entry made into home by breaking bathroom window. Silver bracelet taken. Prints attempted.  
Monday - 1/7-daytime - 1700 block Dekalb Avenue - home entered and property taken. All doors and windows were locked and there were no signs of forced entry. Electronic equipment and leather jackets taken. No prints attempted due to lack of point of entry determination.

### Larceny

Wednesday - 1/16-daytime - 100 block Howard Circle - UPS packages stolen from front door. Items taken: clothing and outdoor light.

Saturday - 1/19-evening - 800 block Harold Avenue - UPS package stolen from outside home. Empty box located across the street. Items taken: clothing.

### Larceny from Auto

Monday-Tuesday - 1/14-1/15 - 300 block Arizona Avenue - Chevy entered and GPS and wallet stolen. Car was not locked. Prints attempted.

*Compiled/reported by VP-Public Safety, Sheila Vinciguerra*

*Service (cont'd from page 1)*

resource management

### New Collection Days

Lake Claire will have trash, recycling and yard waste pick-up on Thursdays.

### Household Garbage Collection Guidelines

- Household garbage includes all non-recyclable discarded garbage, food, paper, glass, plastic, leather, textiles and anything else discarded during normal, daily household activities.
- Household garbage is collected weekly.
- Only 5 additional bags of garbage will be collected in addition to the contents of your Herbie Curbie.
- Herbie Curbies are used for household garbage only and should be set out for collection after 7 pm on the evening prior to collection, or no later than 7 am the day of collection. Please remove your Herbie Curbie no later than 7 pm the day of collection.

### Recycling Guidelines

- Recycling collection occurs weekly on the same day as garbage collection.
- City-issued recycling bins should be used for the collection of recycling materials.
- Eligible recycling items include: aluminum cans, glass bottles/jars without lids, steel and tin cans, mixed paper, office paper, junk mail, telephone directories, boxboard, empty cereal boxes, and plastics #1 and #2 (numbers on bottom of containers).
- For questions regarding recycling, to request a bin, or to set up recycling services, call Atlanta Recycling at 404-792-1212.

### Yard Waste Collection Guidelines

- Yard waste includes plant material such as leaves, grass clippings, branches not to exceed 4 ft in length and 6 inches in diameter, Christmas trees, flowers, roots, wood waste and other material commonly thrown away in the course of maintaining yards and gardens.
- Yard waste will be collected weekly, effective March 3, 2008. Previously, yard waste was collected twice a month.

- Plastic bags containing yard trimmings will not be collected. Yard waste may only be set out in paper yard waste collection bags (also known as kraft bags) not exceeding 25 lbs., or a container clearly labeled "yard trimmings".

### Bulk Waste Collection Guidelines

- Bulk waste refers to materials with a total weight, volume and/or size too large for the City's residential garbage collection trucks to remove. This includes items such as appliances, large furniture, large piles of tree branches, large metal or wooden playground equipment, or similar items.
- Customers should call 404-330-6333 for an appointment to have all bulk waste items collected. As a result of the improved service initiative, items will be picked up within one week from the date called.
- Place all items scheduled for pick up at the curb on the Sunday prior to the collection appointment.

*For info call Office of Solid Waste Services at 404-330-6330.*

## Mark Your Calendars

**March 9** - Sunday - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins

**March 11** - Tuesday - 7 pm Bill McKibben, author and environmental activist, will be speaking at 7 pm on March 11 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 515 E Ponce de Leon Ave, Decatur, GA 30030, in an event co-hosted by Georgia Interfaith Power & Light and the Georgia Center for the Book. Bill McKibben is an American environmentalist and writer who frequently writes about global warming, alternative energy, and the risks associated with human genetic engineering.

**March 14th and 15th** - Friday and Saturday - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DECATUR 2008 Spring/Summer Kids Consignment Sale. Fri. March 14th and Sat. March 15th from 9am - 3pm. Location: 308 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030 (in the Activities Building); gently used quality children's clothing (sizes newborn-16 and juniors 1-7), books, bicycles, puzzles, videos, shoes, strollers, swings, bedding, scout uniforms, nursery/bedroom furniture, baby equipment, sports equipment, indoor/outdoor toys, maternity, etc. Please email [tskidsale@bellsouth.net](mailto:tskidsale@bellsouth.net) or call 770-414-6099 with any questions.

**March 16** - Sunday - from 6:00 - 8:00 pm BOOK RELEASE PARTY Lake Claire resident STEPHEN WING celebrates the publication of his novel FREE RALPH! 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Acapella Bookstore, 484 Moreland Avenue, across the street from Sevananda. Refreshments served; reading at 7:00. Learn more about Wing's "Visionary Comedy" at [www.WindEaglePress.com](http://www.WindEaglePress.com).

March 17 - Monday - St. Patrick's Day

March 23 - Sunday - Easter

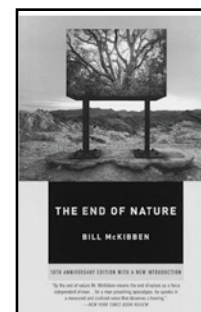
**March 24 - 27** - Monday Through Thursday - Connect Atlanta Planning Workshops. A series of open, multi-day workshops for the Connect Atlanta Plan, a year-long planning process to develop the City's first citywide transportation plan. Location: City Hall East - 675 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE. Workshops: Open Monday through Thursday from 10:00am to 8:00pm. See article in this issue.

**March 29** - Saturday - from 9 am to 1 pm Electronics Recycling Day at the Decatur High School parking lot, on the corner of N McDonough St and Howard Avenue. See article in this issue! Volunteers needed!

**March 29** - Saturday - "Love Your Neighbor" Progressive Dinner; see article in this edition!

## Environmentalism in Action

Bill McKibben, author and environmental activist, will be speaking at 7 pm on March 11 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (515 E Ponce de Leon Ave, Decatur, GA 30030) in an event co-hosted by Georgia Interfaith Power & Light and the Georgia Center for the Book. Bill McKibben is an American environmentalist and writer who frequently writes about global warming, alternative energy, and the risks associated with human genetic engineering. Beginning in the summer of 2006, he led the organization of "Step it Up", the largest demonstrations against global warming in American history. McKibben is active in the Methodist Church, and many of his writings reflect his concern with the environment as a spiritual and moral issue. His books include *The End of Nature*, *Deep Economy*, and *Fight Global Warming Now*. For more information visit [www.gipl.org](http://www.gipl.org) or call 404-588-9978.





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## FREE MONTHLY REAL ESTATE MARKET ANALYSIS REPORT!

Receive a free analysis of real estate conditions in Lake Claire (and Candler Park), including what's on the market and what's sold, comparing this year with the past two years, sent to your e mail address each month. No obligation; just send your request via e mail to [mayah@mindspring.com](mailto:mayah@mindspring.com).

### REAL FACTS FROM THE REALTOR WHO KNOWS LAKE CLAIRE.



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**For every home sold in Lake Claire, Maya donates 2% of her net earnings to Lake Claire Neighbors. For every referral you send, Maya donates \$40 to the neighborhood or to Mary Lin elementary school.**



## Next LCN Meeting

**Thursday, March 20**

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Meetings are open to all. Past months' newsletters and updates to agenda can be found at [www.lake-claire.org](http://www.lake-claire.org).

## Lake Claire Officers for 2008

President: Diane Moore - [president@lakeclaire.org](mailto:president@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP-Zoning: Dan White - [zoning@lakeclaire.org](mailto:zoning@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP-Finance: Cara Stevens - [treasurer@lakeclaire.org](mailto:treasurer@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP-Environment: Kathy Evans - [environment@lakeclaire.org](mailto:environment@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP-Safety: Sheila Finciguerra - [safety@lakeclaire.org](mailto:safety@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP-Communications: Glenn Frankel - [comm@lakeclaire.org](mailto:comm@lakeclaire.org)  
 NPU Rep: Jennifer Sams - [npu@lakeclaire.org](mailto:npu@lakeclaire.org)

## Newsletter Staff

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 Distribution: Troy Nielsen - [distribution@lakeclaire.org](mailto:distribution@lakeclaire.org)  
 Webmaster: Glenn Frankel - [comm@lakeclaire.org](mailto:comm@lakeclaire.org)

## Connect Atlanta Planning Workshops

You are invited to a series of open, multi-day workshops for the Connect Atlanta Plan.

The Connect Atlanta Plan is a yearlong planning process to develop the City's first citywide transportation plan. These interactive sessions are designed for you to drop by at your convenience and work with us on specific transportation challenges in your area. While the public can come anytime during the day, each multi-day workshop will have an introductory and final meeting in order to introduce you to the plan and workshop and then to present the work accomplished during the week. Your input is critical to this effort; please join us in your neighborhood!

Northeast & Eastside - March 24-27 (NPU's E, F, M, N, O, W)

Location: City Hall East - 675 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE  
 Kickoff: Monday, March 24th at 6:30 pm

Recap: Thursday, March 27th at 6:30 pm

Workshops: Open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

Directions: MARTA Bus #2 (Ponce de Leon/Avondale Estates) from North Avenue Station

Parking: Available in first level of parking deck from Ponce de Leon entrance

For questions or to stay up to date with the Connect Atlanta Plan, please visit the plan's website at [www.connectatlantaplan.com](http://www.connectatlantaplan.com) or contact our helpline at 404-330-6800.

DP&CD 55 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 3350 Atlanta, GA 30303 404-330-6070 [www.atlantaga.gov](http://www.atlantaga.gov). Steven R. Cover, Commissioner; James E. Shelby, Deputy Commissioner, City of Atlanta Department of Planning & Community Development

## Legislative Updates

**Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver** (DeKalb Co. 83rd District)  
[www.marymargaretoliver.org](http://www.marymargaretoliver.org) or 404-656-0265.

**Rep. Stacey Abrams** (DeKalb Co. 84th District)  
[www.staceyabrams.com](http://www.staceyabrams.com) or 404-656-7859.

## Mayor announces continued ban on outdoor watering

February 19, 2008 - Mayor Shirley Franklin and Commissioner Rob Hunter today announced that Atlanta would continue its ban on outdoor watering. "We are still in a Level 4 drought," Mayor Franklin said. "And we still are under an obligation to cut our use 10 percent. We can't allow outdoor watering and meet that goal."

Although the governor approved loosening restrictions including one 25 minute hand watering per day, the state maintained the requirement for local utilities to reduce usage by ten percent and gave local utilities the responsibility of deciding how best to meet that goal. The Mayor pointed out that Atlanta had gone to Drought Level 3 last May, four months before the State moved from a Level 2 to a Level 4 drought, banning most outdoor watering. That means that Atlanta's usage was already significantly reduced last summer. A 10 percent reduction on top of that already reduced usage would be "unlikely if not impossible," according to Commissioner Hunter.

Commissioner Hunter noted that the 30-day exemption for new landscaping is still in place but that the City would no longer

exempt watering for lawn over seeding and aeration.

"Lake Lanier levels have dropped significantly over the past three years," the Mayor said. "On Feb. 17, 2006, the lake was 1.97 feet below full pool. A year later, it was 4.85 feet below full pool. On Feb. 17 of this year, it was 18.32 feet below full pool. In other words, Lake Lanier is 13.5 feet below where it was at this time last year, and it is .2 feet lower than it was in November. We are still in a very serious drought." State Climatologist David Stooksbury has predicted that the drought will continue through this summer.

Mayor Franklin did announce that pools will be exempted from the restrictions, effective immediately. "This was not an easy decision," she said. "But we think it makes sense from a public health and safety standpoint. Atlanta gets very, very hot during the summer, and we want children and families to have access to pools."

Commissioner Hunter said that the City would continue to monitor the situation and take additional steps if necessary.

Conservation tips are available at [www.atlantawatershed.org](http://www.atlantawatershed.org). Additionally, in keeping with the Mayor's determination to make water conservation a top priority, the City's water usage figures are posted on [www.atlantawatershed.org](http://www.atlantawatershed.org) every weekday.

*Dinner (cont'd from page 1)*

feature a different dining experience: home #1, for example, will have hors d'oeuvres; home #2 will have the first course; home #3 will have the second course; and home #4 will end with deserts.

And here is what we need to make it all happen. We need four LC neighbors to volunteer their homes. Then we need a number of other LC neighbors to volunteer to bring a food item (or beverage, etc.) to one of the four homes. And, finally, we need Lake Clarions to participate and have fun!

The date is Saturday March 29, starting at 6:30. Mark it on your calendar!

Please contact Diane Moore, [president@lakeclaire.org](mailto:president@lakeclaire.org), to volunteer your home and RSVP your attendance. It's going to be fun, so see you there!!

## Any Ideas Yet?

Lake Claire is in need of a "blurb", a phrase, a NAME for our community alter-ego. It would be something we can use with the Clarion Banner, bumper stickers, etc., and should refer to us as a community committed to environmental concern and sustainability. This is beginning to sound like another contest! Please send in any ideas to [president@lakeclaire.org](mailto:president@lakeclaire.org). Check back next month for ideas submitted thus far.

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 -The Locascios (2007)

"As two architects we debated hiring a realtor because our business is selling people on our designs. We were astonished by how much we actually needed Jo!  
**We still question if she sleeps.**"  
 -The Baxters (2007)



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### Out and About in Lake Claire...

With my camera in tow as usual, I came across this lovely pyracantha arbor. It is the first pyracantha (stiff, extremely thorny and generally useless plant in my view) that I ever liked. It is an absolute redemption of and credit to its species.



### The Conscientious Gardener

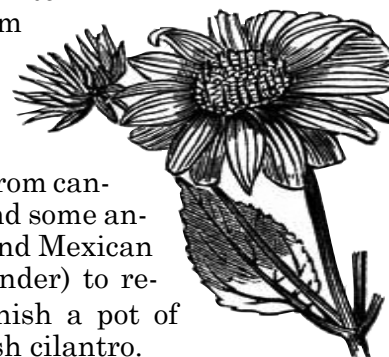
This is the time to prepare for spring and summer in the garden. Garden shows and catalogues are out in force. Last year's experiences may be fresh enough on your mind to make planned improvements. You may even have considered trying food gardening. Even on a micro scale this can be so much fun, particularly if you have kids. One healthy productive plant can be the center of learning, healthy snacking, variety and inspiration. You can go for taste, timeliness, color, decoration or pure curiosity. Help the kids throw a plant or a few of most anything in a sunny flower bed and call it good. You will be able to watch it, weed and water it easily, and admire it as the fruit of your labor matures and becomes ready to harvest. I bet you can even get the kids to taste healthful foods they normally would not by having them grow it themselves. If you want a quick turn-around select varieties of beans, egg plant, broccoli. All



can be planted early in the season and mature quickly.

I think it's fun to save seeds from something that was particularly yummy and plant them the following

season. I have seeds from cantaloupe, pumpkin, bell peppers, basil, and some annual flowers that I love (giant zinnias, and Mexican sunflowers). I also use old seeds (coriander) to re-



plenish a pot of fresh cilantro.

Chores for this month:

- Pre-emergence weed treatment.
- Mulch if you haven't done so in a while. You'll be ready for the next round of water restrictions.
- Feed your lawn and shrubs while we still expect some rain to follow. In dry times feeding will do more harm than good.
- Hand-weed if you can - save the environment and your wallet the cost of chemicals. I like hand-weeding. It's relaxing and rewarding. The look of freshly-tidied lawn and flower beds is instant gratification.



- Finish cutting back dead stuff and add to your mulch pile.
- Prep your veggie patch! Till or turn by hand, mix in any compost or other soil amender as needed, and MULCH. Mulching can be done later when planting is done, but your soil will be easier to work if mulched now. Start selecting plants and seeds; make a list and stick to it! How much money, plants and seeds have you wasted by being impulsive or unrealistic? 🌱



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## Continuing Series: From Lake Claire to the Heights of Mount Everest



By  
Jim Curtin



### Everest Training Part 2: Quikrete is Hard to Beat

In Everest training part one I shared an idea of how one's head needs to be together. Here in part two the focus is the body. One of the best ways to train is to get out in the mountains and climb. Nothing fancy here... training climbs are good preparation for the actual climb. There's a problem though for people living in many parts of the country... Atlanta is one such area. Basically, the area is flat. There's plenty of rolling hills which is fine for running... in terms of meaningful elevation gain though, we have jack here. Driving north is an option, though this isn't practical on a very frequent basis. So, people like me find the best little nearby mound they have... and go up and down a lot of times. My mound is Stone Mountain, and in fact is a pretty beautiful place. The park is right outside of Atlanta and the Mountain is actually the world's largest exposed granite monolith; the Stone Mountain team really does a super job keeping the park looking great. There's also a good bit of cultural diversity there, so all in all, it's a nice training ground.

The gain on Stone Mountain is about 630 vertical feet; in contrast, many expeditions will see climbers gaining 3000 vertical feet / day.



Myles and Stella Nielsen  
having a great time in the forest.

This is where the up and down part comes in. Also, in the mountains, you are carrying a pack. Some mountains involve Sherpa (or porter) support, some don't. Either case, you should be pretty comfortable carrying 40-50lbs for long periods of time at high altitude. As air is thin at altitude, the training in oxygen thick environments like Atlanta should be more demanding to compensate. With that logic in mind, I'm currently training on Stone Mountain w/ a pack weighing 102lbs. It's heavy, particularly as I'm not a huge guy (I weigh roughly 170lbs). So, finally we get to our friend Quikrete. This fine product yields great weight per volume it takes up. I simply add a sack of this stuff to my pack; throw in some metal weights and a bunch of other odds and ends that were in the back of my Jeep, and bam... 102lbs of pure Everest training magic.

From FAQs: How cold does it get on Mt. Everest?

In a word, very! In January, the coldest time of the year, temperatures can drop to -76°F. It's windy, too, with wind speed (due to the jet stream) sometimes as high as 175mph. During the climbing season, temperatures near the summit may range between -25°F and 5°F (approximately -30°C to -20°C), but with wind conditions factored in, the environment is still a harsh one. On a good day where winds are 20mph and the temperature is a fairly routine -20°F, the wind chill factor makes it feel like it is a frigid -48°F. In these conditions, frostbite can set in within minutes. That said, at base camp in May when the sun is shining, it can get downright balmy... a picture of climbers wearing t-shirts is not uncommon!

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February 8, 2008

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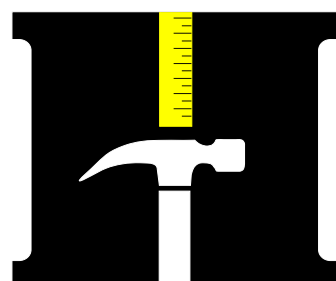
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## The 10% Give Back!

This spring, we're donating 10% of boot camp proceeds to improve Candler Park.

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## Mary Lin elementary

### Mary Lin Bulletin Board

By Laura Lancaster Archer

Be sure to mark your calendars for Thursday, April 17th. That's when the folks at Mary Lin Elementary hold their annual Kindergarten Round Up where parents and their little buckaroos can come on down to the school house for a get acquainted gathering.

In the mean time, Mary Lin Elementary continues its monthly parent-only tours. The next is scheduled for Thursday, March 6th from 9:30 - 10:30 am, and another is offered on Thursday, April 3rd. Contact Mary Lin parent Laura Lancaster Archer at [archer@mindspring.com](mailto:archer@mindspring.com) - or - 404-524-4564 for answers to any questions you may have.

Don't forget to save your "Boxtops for Education" for Mary Lin. They can be taken to the school office or dropped off at 431 Harold Ave. and placed in the Clarion Drop Box on the front porch.

### Donate Backpacks to Help the Homeless

Kashi Atlanta, a nonprofit yoga community dedicated to service, is accepting donated backpacks to make care packages for the homeless as part of its Classical Yoga Teacher Training course. The backpacks will be filled with t-shirts, socks, toiletries, personal care items, food and water and distributed to men, women and children living on the streets in downtown Atlanta.

Forty instructors-in-training are learning to put the yogic teachings of

selfless service into action by preparing and distributing 500 care packages for some of Atlanta's neediest homeless people. The effort complements Kashi Atlanta's Street Meals program which has served more than 20,000 meals annually to the homeless since 2000.

According to the director of Kashi Atlanta's Street Meals program Michele Sadhu La Combe, the objective of the

backpack project is to "let men and women on the streets know that they are seen, loved, and not forgotten."

To donate a backpack or make a financial contribution, please contact Kashi Atlanta at 404-687-3353.



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### Lake Claire Community Land Trust Bulletin Board

#### Update on work to acquire adjacent property

The LCCLT wants to acquire the Tree Climbers International (TCI) lot on Arizona Ave which is almost 1/4 acre!

We need your help to purchase the land. The Land Trust is holding a capital campaign to fund the purchase of the TCI lot as well as to fund other land acquisitions such as purchasing adjoining back yards.

Our goal is to raise \$275,000. We are in full swing with fundraising and have \$3475 so far. Thanks to all who have contributed so far!

Your contribution will protect the Tree Climbing lot from development and ensure preservation of vital bird habitat and greenspace.

Contributions can be made payable to the Frank Foundation which has generously offered to act as the fiduciary agent of the Land Trust until the LT receives its own 501c3 status. All donations are tax deductible. Please, give generously!

#### Support Your Local Land Trust!

Donate now to help us reach our \$275,000 goal! Any amount between \$10 and \$200,000 is welcomed! Donate over \$150 and receive either a cloth bag, mug, T-shirt or hat.\*

Make checks payable to Frank Foundation

Specify "For LCCLT land conservation" on check

Mail check and donation to: 1838 New York Ave, Atlanta, GA 30307

\* Please note if you do not wish to receive a thank you gift. Forgoing your gift allows more money to go to the actual purchase of the land.

#### Looking for Electronic Recycling Volunteers (cont'd from page 1)

Volunteers are needed for a (2) hour shift to direct traffic, unload recyclables from cars, and sort items. Sign yourself up or get a team together!! Volunteering for this event is a perfect opportunity for a service project, or for just doing a plain old good deed. Choose a shift from 8:30 am to 11 am OR 11 am to 1:30 pm. You'll not only be going home with a warm heart, you'll also be wearing your very own Decatur Recycling Volunteer T-shirt - THE premier ecology badge of honor!! Contact [scott.thompson@mindspring.com](mailto:scott.thompson@mindspring.com) for more information.

If it plugs in and it's not a TV or microwave . . . we'll take it: Equipment accepted for recycling includes: desktop computers, phones, mini-towers, telephone equipment, laptops, adding machines, monitors, calculators,

servers, typewriters, workstations, label makers, keyboards, copiers, mice, fax machines, joystick game controllers, answering machines, printers, printer cartridges, digital cameras, zip drives, batteries, speakers, PDAs, pagers, VCRs, hubs, DVD players, routers, cable converter boxes, scanners, remote controls, digital projectors, stereo equipment UPS units, radios, main frames, portable CD players, portable game players, cables, GPS receivers, 3-in-1 devices, printer/copier/fax machines, yard mowers, trimmers, edgers, saws, extension cords and sewing machines.

All citizens of Earth are welcome. Businesses with more than 200 electronic items to be recycled should contact us before the event.

*Editor's Note: Scott Thompson is a Decatur resident and Lake Claire property owner who also sits on Decatur's waste management advisory board.*

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## Green Space On Dekalb Avenue Gets a Helping Hand

### The Last Green Space on Dekalb

Written by Amy Stout, contributions by Cynthia Baer

Teri Stewart and her neighbors have been engaged in a three-year struggle to preserve the 0.54 acre oasis at the corner of Dekalb Avenue and Gordon Avenue in Lake Claire. This property consists of two lots, 288 and 292 Gordon.

A variance has already been granted that would allow the construction of ten units here – despite neighborhood and NPU objections. Although one of the current owners has indicated his intent is to recoup his investment, rather than develop the property (there is a For Sale sign posted), the owners recently applied for tree removal permits. In total 29 live trees will be cut down. In exchange, the developers propose to plant eleven 2.5 inch trees and will only pay a total recompense of \$1,140.

Concerned neighbors consider this to be needless destruction and find it egregious for a number of reasons.

First, this is the last publicly accessible green space on the five-mile length of Dekalb Ave between downtown Decatur and

downtown Atlanta. Second, this area is home to a variety of wild-life including a family of raccoons and a hawk's nest. Third, a specimen pecan tree that should qualify as a historic tree will not be saved. This tree was part of the "Sutherland" estate established in the 1870's by General John B. Gordon, a former U.S. Senator and Georgia governor. And, in an ironic twist, the name of the development provided on the application to the City is "Greenspace Condominiums."

At the Tree Commission Hearing on February 20, Teri Stewart was amazing as she worked through the "erroneous decisions" made by the arborist in approving the destruction of the majority of the trees on the property – including the historic pecan "Granmaw Gordon" who appears immune to Pecan Scab - to be cut down on the lot at 288 and 292 Gordon Avenue for the "Greenspace Condos." There was great disagreement among the board – but in the end they deferred, denying the appeal for 30 days in order to allow the neighborhood to raise funds to purchase the property. Only a million dollars in 30 days! We are proceeding. We're working on setting up an account for donations. If anyone has ideas as to where we may find funding to save the land to make it into a pocket park for pedestrians and cyclists, please contact Teri Stewart at 404-370-1003. Next month: an update, plus a primer on the historical significance and future worth of Granmaw Gordon, Lake Claire's lovely legacy from the Southerland Estate.

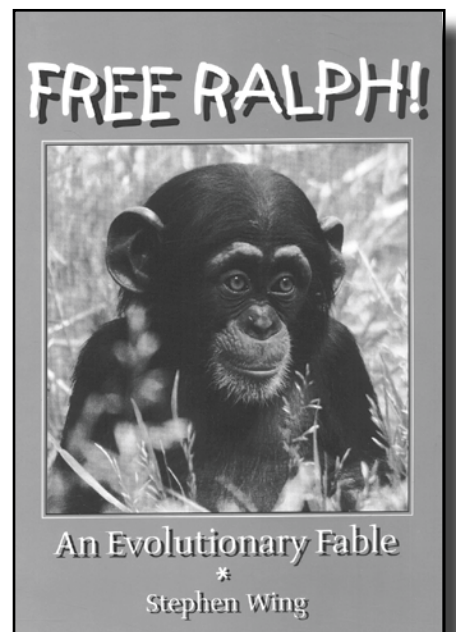
## A Good Read by One of Our Own

By Stephen Wing

*Free Ralph!* An Evolutionary Fable is a 232-page novel which I wrote during my treatment for cancer two years ago. In fact, I consider it a key part of my recovery, since in order to find out how the story ended, I had to survive.

The next step in my recovery was to share it with readers. But because the story has an environmental theme, I felt strongly that it should not be printed on paper made from trees. That meant I couldn't use the normal channels to find a publisher. My compromise was to form a publishing company and publish it myself on paper with the highest post-consumer recycled content I could afford.

*Free Ralph!* is the somewhat whimsical story of a young circus chimpanzee, his relatives back in Africa, and a lost hunter whom they commission to bring their baby home. In my story the chimpanzees are more intelligent than people, with much to teach their human protégé about ecology, the spiritual path of animals - known in human language as "evolution" - and the need for humans to take the next step in our own evolution. Visit [www.WindEaglePress.com](http://www.WindEaglePress.com)



[WindEaglePress.com](http://WindEaglePress.com) for a more detailed description and excerpts from the book.

Join me for a book release celebration at Acapella Books in Little Five Points on Sunday, March 16, from 6 to 8 pm. Other area stores that will be carrying *Free Ralph!* include the Donna Van Gogh art store and Eagle Eye Books in Decatur. You can also get a copy via the website above (with a shipping charge) or directly from me at my home in Lake Claire. Just send me an email at [SWing@StephenWing.com](mailto:SWing@StephenWing.com) to set up a time to drop by. I appreciate your support.

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that he  
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instead of  
his tongue.*

-Anonymous

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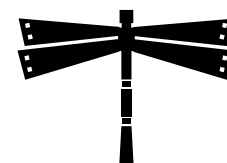
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