



Home & Garden Tour: See Lake Claire Inside & Out

*Lake
Claire*

2010 HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Experience life on the "lake"

Have you ever wondered what that house you love down the street looks like inside? Or wanted to find out how your neighbor grows such a beautiful, thriving garden? Whether you're new to the neighborhood or a long-time resident, you've probably been curious about the many distinctive homes and gardens in Lake Claire. On Saturday, October 2, you'll have a chance to satisfy that curiosity at the 2010 Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour, the neighborhood's first in over five years.

With an eclectic mix of architectural styles—Craftsman bungalows, 1950s cottages, and Contemporary Folk styles, along with recent renovations and new constructions—we have something for everyone's tastes, and a feast for architecture aficionados. Our gardens are just as impressive, with elegant formal designs and colorful informal plots, vegetable gardens and sculpture gardens and community gardens. The list of homes and gardens that will be featured on the tour will be available September 1 on www.lakeclairehometour.com.

Lake Claire is known for its diverse housing stock, abundant mature trees, and lovingly tended gardens and greenspaces, but it also has an important and rich history. The streets now in Lake Claire were originally surveyed



Tour-goers are sure to get a surprise from the treasures awaiting them inside 305 Arizona Avenue, one of the featured homes on the tour.

Volunteers Needed
See page 2 for details

as a few separate developments, which were incorporated into Atlanta one by one in the 1910s. Although some developers built groups of houses, much of Lake Claire was sold as empty lots, with individuals constructing their own homes. Lake Claire's first family, the Gordons, owned an estate on the current site of the Horizons School (1900 DeKalb Avenue NE) from 1871 to 1931. Their estate overlooked the railroad and road below and included many acres of farmland and orchards. The home was torn down in 1942.

Come learn more about the neighborhood and meet your neighbors at the 2010 Home & Garden Tour on October 2. The tour begins at 1:00 pm at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, 369 Connecticut Avenue NE, where tour-goers with tickets can pick up their tour booklets and map, and where people may purchase

day-of tickets. Tour participants are also invited to visit the garden at Clifton, which is tended by neighbors and provides food for the men who live there.

The tour runs from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm and is followed by an after party at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, 280 Arizona Avenue, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, featuring food and beverages for sale and live music.

The Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour is a project of Lake Claire Neighbors, the neighborhood association. Proceeds from the sale of tour tickets support neighborhood greenspace improvements and Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.

Tickets for the Home & Garden Tour are \$15 the day of the tour, or \$12 in advance. Tickets may be purchased online at www.lakeclairehometour.com or at Donna Van Gogh's, 1651 McLendon Avenue. The tour will be held rain or shine. Pets are not allowed in homes or gardens.

Learn more about the 2010 Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour at www.lakeclairehometour.com or on Facebook.

—Heidi Hill

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THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON
RECYCLED PAPER.

Save the Date
Saturday
October 2

New Georgia Public Broadcasting Show Looks at Rebuilding Urban Communities

Blockheads: The Return of the Neighborhood Aired Sept. 8

Focusing on the resurgence of Atlanta's Old Fourth Ward neighborhood, the pilot program of **BlockHeads: The Return of the Neighborhood** will air on Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) stations statewide at 7 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 8. The show's name reflects the singular commitment of urban dwellers to their neighbors and to the revitalization and sustainability of their neighborhoods. **BlockHeads** tells their stories and offers their insights on how to create and maintain a thriving community.

Through longtime residents, recent home buyers, and business owners, **BlockHeads** tells the story of the Old Fourth Ward's rich history, heartbreaking

decline, and triumphant rebirth. The neighborhood includes the birthplace of Martin Luther King Jr. as well as some of the city's most innovative loft developments and local businesses.

BlockHeads features Old Fourth Ward pioneers such as Mtamaneka Youngblood, former director of the Old Fourth Ward Historic District Development Corporation; Charles Johnson, founder of the Spirit of Sweet Auburn; and neighborhood advocate Joan Garner, talking about their experiences in addressing the neighborhood's needs and overcoming its obstacles. Myrna Perez, owner of LOTTAFRUTTA Market, and glassblower Matt Janke, owner of Janke Studio, discuss the area's economic and artistic rebirth.

The pilot episode will be rebroadcast at 11:30 am on Saturday, September 11, and at 1:30 pm on Sunday, September 12. For a preview, visit: <http://www.eastwoodfilms.com/portfolio1.html>.
—From a press release

Fun Fitness Offers Boot Camp Scholarships

If you love Fun Fitness programs but can't afford the cost, Fun Fitness would like to help. Since 2006, Fun Fitness has offered scholarships into popular group programs with the belief that all persons, whether from good economic means or not, can enjoy the opportunity to stay healthy and get fit participating in their group exercise programs. Fun Fitness hopes to award five scholarships into the Sixth Annual Boot Camp at Candler Park or BURN! Traveling PATH Interval. Both programs begin in September. Most fitness levels are welcomed, and there are a number of class days and times to choose from. For additional information or to apply for a scholarship, visit www.funfitnessonline.com or contact Jaye Crawford at (404) 378-5775.

—Jaye Crawford

Volunteers Needed for the Home & Garden Tour on Oct. 2!

The Home & Garden Tour committee has been working to gather sponsorships and nominations, organize the day's events, and promote the tour all over Atlanta—but we need your help to pull it off! Volunteers are needed to

- Distribute posters in local retail districts
- Put up signs in the neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods
- Help out tour homeowners on the day of the event
- Clean up and pick up signs after the tour

If you would like to help in any of these ways, or if you have other suggestions for how you might join the effort, please contact the tour committee at tourofhomes@lakeclaire.org (put "Volunteer" in the subject line). We'll fill you in on our needs and available shifts, and if you sign up, you'll get to attend the event for free!

Thank you, neighbors. With your help, we can make this an amazing event for Lake Claire.

City of Atlanta Solid Waste Program Changes Announced

Yard Waste Pickup Dates Change; Free Large Recycling Bins Available

Effective September 13, 2010, yard trimmings will be collected every other week on the same day as household garbage (Thursday for Lake Claire). The Department of Public Works will continue to offer weekly pickup of recyclables. You may use your own covered container as long as it is clearly

labeled "RECYCLING" and made of sturdy plastic-type material. You may also request a free 95-gallon recycling bin from the DPW by calling the Customer Service Center at (404) 330-6333 or submitting an email request to publicworks@atlantaga.gov. The DPW will pick up your old black recycling bin and deliver the new bin to your home.

There is a new service fee as part of the 2010 annual solid waste bill to accommodate market demand and cost of operations. The new annual rate is \$88. The city's solid waste bills are distributed based on the city's fiscal calendar; however, fees are applicable January–December of the current year.

Items eligible for curbside recycling collection include:

- Newspaper
- Aluminum cans
- Glass bottles and jars (lids removed)
- Steel (tin) cans
- Plastic: all food containers and plastic bottles (rinsed out), NO PLASTIC BAGS, HOSES, PIPES, or FURNITURE
- Mixed paper
- Office paper
- Junk mail
- Telephone directories
- Boxboard (cereal boxes, tissue boxes)
- Shredded paper tied in a clear plastic bag
- Magazines
- Catalogs
- Cardboard: broken down or cut to fit in the bin (to keep dry)

Collection of yard trimmings is changing to every other week to accommodate the current staffing resources available. Customers whose household garbage collection day is Wednesday or Thursday will receive yard trimmings collection every other week beginning the week of September 20, 2010. Yard trimmings include plant material such as leaves, grass clippings, branches not exceeding four feet in length and six inches in diameter, Christmas trees, flowers, roots, wood waste, and other material commonly thrown away in the course of maintaining yards and gardens. Plastic bags containing yard trimmings will not be collected. Yard trimmings may only be set out in paper yard trimming collection bags not exceeding twenty-five pounds, or in a container clearly labeled "YARD TRIMMINGS."


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The *Clarion* is published monthly. The deadline for advertising and editorial consideration is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Lake Claire Neighbors

P.O. Box 5942 Atlanta, GA 31107 (404) 236-9526

Visit www.lakeclaire.org to sign up for the newscasts—timely updates on happenings in Lake Claire!

Interested in being a member of the *Clarion* staff?

Our incredible advertising team of one, Emily Veazey, is resigning her post after three years. Advertising is what keeps our paper afloat, so we wouldn't have a paper without her. If you want to learn more about this volunteer position, contact Heidi Hill at editor@lakeclaire.org. And we're always looking for writers, artists, and photographers, too, so send your thoughts, ideas, and stories our way!

From the Editor

A byline was inadvertently left off the cover story of the August *Clarion*, "Lake Claire's Got Rhythm, Lake Claire's Got Music!" The author was none other than Susan Drake, a frequent contributor to the paper who has a certain passion for promoting local small businesses. Thank you, Susan!

Safety Report

July - August 2010

BURGLARY

Thurs 6/3 (8:00 am–3:00 pm)—1700 block McLendon Ave NE

Victim advised someone stole her recycling bin. Incident not reported until 7/13.

Mon 7/26 (10:45–10:57 am)—300 block Connecticut Ave NE

Police responded to an alarm call at location. Someone had kicked out a panel on the front door and reached in and unlocked the door. Taken: Flat-screen TV.

Thurs 7/29 (8:00 pm)–Fri 7/30 (7:00 am)—400 block Hardendorf Ave NE, driveway

Someone broke out driver's side window of 2006 BMW 3301 with a large rock. Taken: Sunglasses, iPod, GPS.

Sun 8/8 (12:00–6:00 am)—1700 block McLendon Ave NE

Victims advised they chained their two bikes to their vehicles, and when they came out in the morning someone had cut the chains and taken the bikes.

CAR THEFT/ATTEMPTED CAR THEFT

Sun 8/8 (10:45 pm)–Mon 8/9 (11:45 am)—300 block Arizona Ave NE

1997 Honda Accord, GA Tag # 645REY

Victim advised she parked her vehicle in front of the driveway at location, and when she returned it was gone. Vehicle was placed on system as stolen.

Mon 8/16 (10:00 pm)–Tues 8/17 (7:45 am)—400 block Leonardo Ave NE

1997 Honda Accord, GA Tag # BME7858

Victim advised he parked his vehicle in front of location, and when he returned it was gone. Vehicle had not been impounded by city and

was placed on the system as stolen.

Tues 8/17 (2:00–6:00 am)—1996 DeKalb Ave NE, parking lot

1974 Chevy Nova, GA Tag # HA3QUB)

1985 Ford F-150, GA Tag # HA8VAV

Victims advised both vehicles were parked in the parking lot of the business. When they returned to the location, they found the Chevy had been stolen. The driver's side vent window to the Ford was broken out and the steering column damaged. The Chevy was placed on the system as stolen. Victims live on Claire Dr. and Cumberland Rd. in Atlanta.

Tues 8/17 (11:00 pm)–Wed 8/18 (8:15 am)—500 block Hardendorf Ave NE

2004 Chrysler Town & Country, GA Tag # WL6101

Someone broke the lock of one of the vehicle doors and busted the ignition in an attempt to steal the vehicle.

Wed 8/18 (12:01–9:30 am)—400 block Harold Ave NE

1996 Chrysler Town & Country

Victim's daughter parked vehicle in front of her residence, and when she returned it was gone. Victim's daughter called victim (father) and asked if he came and got it, but he hadn't. Vehicle was placed on system as stolen. Victim lives in Marietta.

Fri 8/20 (12:30–7:00 am)—1900 block DeKalb Ave NE, garage of residence

Victim advised she packed a trailer with listed items and put it in her garage but forgot to close the garage door. Victim stated when she returned home, the trailer had been stolen, along with all of its contents. Taken: Desktop and laptop computers, salon products, mannequins, clothes.



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Mark Your Calendar

September

3-5 AJC Decatur Book Festival, downtown Decatur. Featuring keynote speaker Jonathan Franzen, author book readings and signings, panels, a writing conference, a children's parade and performance stage, youth and adult poetry slams, live music, cooking demonstrations, a book market and street fair, and food, beer, and wine. For details on authors, activities, and events, as well as a festival schedule, go to www.decaturookfestival.com/2010.

4-12 Midtown Atlanta Restaurant Week. Enjoy special three-course prix fixe meals at participating restaurants, including 4th & Swift, Ecco, and Rosebud. Dinners are \$25 and

lunches \$15. Details can be found at www.atlrestaurantweek.com.

6 Labor Day

6 National premiere celebration at Zoo Atlanta of PBS's *The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot about That!* The event includes an animal-inspired scavenger hunt, screenings of the series premiere, a visit from the Cat himself, readings from The Cat in the Hat Learning Library series, and more. Learn more at www.zooatlanta.com.

9-12 Yellow Daisy Festival, Stone Mountain Park. Arts and crafts show with live entertainment and children's activities. See www.stonemountainpark.com.

10-11

Five and Dime Kids Fall 2010 Consignment Sale, Epworth United Methodist Church. Friday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm and 5:00-8:00 pm, Saturday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (half-price day). For more info: www.fiveanddimekids.com.

10-12

The Georgia Trust Fall Ramble.

Discover intown architectural treasures in Atlanta's oldest "suburbs" and experience the charm of this Southern city on an early fall weekend, when the traffic is lighter and the pace is slower. Ramble will feature the neighborhoods of Midtown, Ansley Park, Inman Park, Grant Park, and Sweet Auburn. For more information, contact the Trust's Special Events Department at (404) 885-7812 or SpecialEvents@GeorgiaTrust.org.

11 The Land Trust Fall Fest 2010, 1:00-11:30 pm, Lake Claire Community Land Trust. (See article on page 5.)

13 Meeting of the Lake Claire Garden Club, 7:00 pm.

14 Grady High School PTSA Open House, 6:00 pm.

16 Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7:00 pm, Frazer Center atrium, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon (back entrance is at end of Ridgewood Road).

18-19 Atlanta Arts Festival, Piedmont Park. Featuring over two hundred artists, live music, and activities for kids. For details, go to www.atlantaartsfestival.com.

23 Food Fundamentals for Healthy Kids and Communities, Friends School of Atlanta (FSA), 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. The event kicks off a yearlong speaker series to

commemorate FSA's twentieth anniversary and is free and open to the public. It begins with a screening of the documentary *What's on Your Plate?*, followed by a panel discussion featuring Rep. Stephanie Stuckey Benfield; Julie Shaffer, founder of Slow Food Atlanta and Emory University's food service education coordinator; Erin Croom, coordinator for the Farm to School Program for Georgia Organics; and Melissa Walker, award-winning author of books for young readers dramatizing key environmental issues. For more information, visit www.friendsschoolatlanta.org.

23 NPU-N meeting, 7:00 pm, Little Five Points Community Center, 1083 Austin Ave. NE.

25 Candler Park Screen on the Green. Showing *High School Musical* (rated G, 98 minutes). Festivities start at 7:30 p.m.

26 SkaterAid 2010, 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm, East Decatur Station (off College Avenue, near the Avondale Marta Station). This annual skateboard and music festival benefits the Brain Tumor Foundation and honors the life of Ian Wochatz. Visit www.skateraid.net for more information.

October

2 2010 Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour, 1:00-6:00 pm, followed by food and music at the Land Trust, 6:00-8:00 pm.

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We're in the neighborhood!

Upcoming Events at the Land Trust

September 5, 3:00-6:00 pm: "Keep the Trust" volunteer workday. Pizza will be served when we finish. Also, volunteers will receive a free pass to the next drum circle.

September 11, 1:00-11:30 pm: Fall Fest, an annual music festival benefiting the Land Trust (see article).

September 19, 3:00-6:00 pm: "Keep the Trust" volunteer workday. Pizza will be served when we finish. Also, volunteers will receive a free pass to the next drum circle.

October 2, 1:00-8:00 pm: Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour, this year including an "after party" with dinner and music at the Land Trust. For info: www.lakeclairehometour.com.

October 9: Fund-raiser for Veterans Heart.

October 24: Annual pumpkin carving.

December 4: Annual Holiday Craft Sale. (Start making your crafts now—just hold off awhile on the baked goods).

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust is located at the end of Arizona Avenue, three blocks off McLendon. To learn more about us, to join one of our five email lists, to make a tax-deductible donation, or to contact us with questions or feedback, visit us at www.LCCLT.org. Drop by, get in touch, and get involved!

Land Trust Fall Fest 2010—Come One, Come All!

Fall is upon us! That's right, folks—fall will eventually bring some ease to the heat we've all been dealing with this summer. And with the wonderful changes of fall also comes the Land Trust's fall fundraiser. Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 11, from 1:00 to 11:30 pm.

This year's Fall Fest has the special added touch of neighborhood kids' bands playing (although William McLane is hardly a kid anymore!). We are hoping to have young Elijah Haller's debut with a newly formed band (name still pending) that came together through the kids' rock camp at Pepperland this summer. Next will be a repeat of this past spring's breakout band My Homework Ate My Dog, with kids from Mary Lin and beyond, and then Arizona Avenue's own William McLane and Just Peachy.

That covers the younger musicians, who will be leading us into the more experienced players. The jazzy combo The Owls will be followed by more neighbors, Reuben Haller and Scooter McLane's band Jackson Love Highway. The headliners will be Bill Fleming's one and only Ex-P.A.N.D. Band.

In addition to all this fine and fun music, there will be the usual food and beverages for sale at the Gorilla Grill, plus plenty of homemade

goodies at the bake sale table, face and body painting, vendors and more. We will also be raffling off oodles of locally donated services and prizes. Limited-edition Lake Claire Land Trust T-shirts will be available, too. And though the choice of the date was coincidental, the schedule will include a moment of silence to commemorate the September 11 attacks.

Many volunteers are needed to make it happen, of course. Volunteering is a great way to meet and connect with neighbors, support our amazing Land Trust, and have even more fun. If you can sign up for a volunteer shift, can donate something for the raffle or the bake sale, or would like to vend, please contact me at (678) 508-6632.

Come one, come all! It's time for our own Fall Fest to support the Land Trust, a full afternoon and evening of fun for all. Kids are not only welcomed but encouraged—what a place to play! As always, the Land Trust encourages biking, walking, riding MARTA, and carpooling to reduce impact on our nearby neighbors and the environment in general. If you drive, please park at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (Connecticut Avenue and Ivy Street) and enjoy the three-and-a-half-block stroll to the Arizona Avenue cul-de-sac. —Sunshine Allard

Lake Claire Halloween Parade and Party Set for October 30

Volunteer Needed to Coordinate Event

Costumes and candy are on the brain as October nears...And that means it's time to plan the Lake Claire Halloween Parade and Party. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, October 30. For the past few years, neighbor and parents' group founder Sherry Neal has organized the event, with the help of other neighborhood parents. Sherry needs to pass the torch this year, so we are looking for a new fearless leader to head up the organizational efforts. If you are interested, please contact Glenn Frankel at president@lakeclaire.org.

Candler Park Fall Fest 2010: The Creepiest Festival Yet!

This year's Candler Park Fest will take place on Saturday, October 23 (noon–9:00 pm), and Sunday, October 24 (noon–8:00 pm). The Fall Ball will be held on the Friday before, from 7:00 to 11:00 pm. Highlights for 2010 include Halloween events for all ages, a band lineup that includes Atlanta jazz singer Francine Reed, kids' activities, an artists' market with nearly one hundred booths, and food and Sweetwater beer. The FallFest 5K starts at 11:00 am on Saturday, and the Tour of Homes will take place Sunday, from noon to 6:00 pm. For more information, go to www.candlerpark.org/fallfest.



Eager Lake Claire residents line up for last year's Halloween Parade and Party. Clockwise from upper left: Audrey Maxim, Sitar Ben-Herut, Jazz Sibille, and Cisco Harrison (in hand-me-down dinosaur costume by resident Denise Dumais-Johnston).



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News from the Lake Claire Community Land Trust

D.I.Y. Rain Barrel Workshop

On July 31, the Lake Claire Community Land Trust and the City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management cohosted a rain barrel workshop at the Land Trust's gazebo. For \$45, participants received all the necessary materials to assemble and paint their own rain barrels. Sixteen neighbors attended, several just to gain the experience and knowledge, filling in for someone who could not attend but wanted to donate a barrel to the Land Trust. Eighteen barrels were made, ten of which were donated.

The following two Land Trust workdays, on August 8 and 22, were

devoted to putting up gutters on the Land Trust's various roofs—the Gorilla Grill, the restroom, the stage, and the storage shed—to put the donated barrels to work. Most of them are now attached to downspouts. Future workdays will include installing underground waterlines to drain the barrels. The finished system will provide much-needed irrigation water for the garden areas, supplementing the 1,600-gallon holding tank that is filled by the solar-powered pump in our well . . . except when it rains.

—Genise Spenle and Stephen Wing

—Photos by Erik Voss



One participant decorated her rain barrel with "Go Veg."



The event's organizers work together.



The Department of Watershed Management supplied barrels already prepped with two holes drilled.



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Interested in Alternative Energy?

A small group of neighbors has begun meeting to explore ways to make the Land Trust more self-sufficient. We're looking into grants to help us add more solar capacity to our solar-powered well pump. Our goal is to power all of our daily electrical needs and occasional events completely on our own, and possibly even sell power back to the grid. If anyone out there has ideas, resources, expertise, or even plain old enthusiasm to share, please contact Stephen Wing, swing@stephenwing.com.



News from Mary Lin Elementary School

Homeowners in the neighborhood will be paying their property tax bills soon and will notice a large chunk going to schools. So what can we see in our neighborhoods for all that money? Obviously, the money we pay doesn't "stay" in the neighborhood, but Mary Lin Elementary, an Atlanta Public School, is supported by those tax dollars. Approximately 570 students are enrolled in Mary Lin this year—the most in recent years, and perhaps ever! Even though the State Board of Education has granted exemptions for class-size maximums for this school year because of budget concerns, class sizes at Mary Lin have not increased dramatically. The largest classes at Mary Lin are those for the fifth graders, which have about twenty-four students each. The other grades all average twenty to twenty-two students per classroom. Besides the standard reading, writing, and arithmetic, Mary Lin also offers instruction in Spanish, music, art, and physical education to

all students. Challenge classes are offered for grades second through fifth, and fourth and fifth graders participate in chorus, orchestra, or band, with each group offering two performances per year.

There is also a wide variety of enrichment opportunities for the students organized by volunteers, ranging from academic to artistic to athletic and beyond. Early risers can get to school before the first bell for Math Superstars, Chess Club, or Art Club. Those with energy after school can join Girls on the Run or the Dirty Fingernails Club, which focuses on the environment and science. And, of course, Scouting for boys and girls is ever popular. So while seeing that tax bill is hardly fun, know that you are supporting a strong elementary school, and remember that behind every great neighborhood is a great school!

—Mary Jo Bryan

Joe's Ladder One of Two Atlanta Projects Awarded Grants by Self-Development of People (SDOP)

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) has approved grants totaling \$260,000 to fourteen self-help projects in the United States. The money is from the PC (USA)—One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. Self-Development of People receives 32 percent of undesignated OGHS gifts. The following Atlanta, GA, groups were awarded grants:

Joe's Ladder was awarded \$7,800. Members of Joe's Ladder belong to the group because of life choices and/or mental health issues. They are attempting to turn their lives around through literacy, education, and mentoring, which will result in them being gainfully employed and able to live independently.

Redemption After Prison, Inc., was awarded \$19,450. The members of this group are men who were incarcerated from four to twenty years. They all acquired construction skills while in prison and are all now employed. Through this project, they are assisted in becoming homeowners by education in homeownership, savings/credit preparation, and the redevelopment of fore-

closed and abandoned houses.

SDOP's grant recipients through the years have ranged from small agricultural cooperatives in rural communities to empowering young people from low-income neighborhoods to supporting a cooperative of African American women who support themselves by selling pecans through the mail.

SDOP enables members and nonmembers of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to form partnerships with economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people in order to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Grants were approved at a meeting of SDOP's national committee in the Dominican Republic in May 2010.

For further information about Self-Development of People, please contact the National Office at 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396, toll-free English: (888) 728-7228 x5782/5791/5792, Spanish: (888) 728-7228 x5790, www.pcusa.org/sdop.

—From a press release

News from Clifton Sanctuary Ministries: Joe's Ladder Update

The feet of Joe's Ladder are anchored on the two distinct principles of self-development through education and giving back to the community. Originally, the program received a SDOP grant of \$6,400 from the Greater Atlanta Presbytery. This summer, it was awarded the additional sum of \$7,800 from the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP). Each member of Joe's Ladder chooses his own personal education goals, and so far, the members have accomplished the following:

- Two are attending classes in adult literacy at Literacy Volunteers of Atlanta.
- One member has earned his GED and is now studying for his college SAT.
- Another has completed a course in digital photography and is signing up for an advanced class.
- One gentleman is studying for his Georgia Assessment for the Certification of Educators to get his teaching license through reciprocity as well as volunteering as a tutor at Literacy Volunteers of Atlanta.
- A member has completed his national and state mortgage broker certification training and is studying for his national and state exams.

The group decided to purchase a computer and printer for all the residents to share to work on their goals.

In the spirit of giving back, the members of Joe's Ladder are reaching out to the Lake Claire and Candler Park neighborhoods as well as the Presbyterian community and asking them to donate their used cell phones and inkjet and laser cartridges for recycling. The guys at Joe's will pack and ship the items to a recycling center they have partnered with and donate the money to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.

If you want to help Joe's Ladder help Clifton, drop off your used cell phones and inkjet and laser cartridges at Clifton any afternoon or evening.

—Donald Long



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8 years in Lake Claire

Lake Claire Neighbors Attend and Present at the B*ATL

Over the weekend of July 23-25, Atlantans marked the 146th anniversary of the Battle of Atlanta with the B*ATL, a weekend of activities commemorating the historic event that kicked off on Friday night with the B*ATL Gala at the East Lake Country Club. Lake Claire was represented at the gala by Dan White and Sarah Wynn (VP of Zoning for LCN and neighborhood liaison to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, respectively) and Heidi Hill and Matt Crenshaw.

The evening began with a silent auction and music by bluegrass band Whoa Nelly in the club's Great Hall. After a satisfying Southern supper, B*ATL chair Henry Bryant and councilmember Natalyn Archibong gave stirring speeches, followed by a performance of "An American Trilogy" by Sam Hogan and Judy Cole that was truly breathtaking. Thanks to Natalyn Archibong for inviting our neighborhood to be a part of this important event.

On Saturday and Sunday, event attendees were treated to storytelling, music, demonstrations, author talks and book signings, and history presentations, including a talk by Lake Claire's own Teri Stewart, who presented on the Black and White Gordons of DeKalb County, accompanied by pianist Heidi Polyea, at the East Atlanta Library.

—Editor



A wounded Union soldier receives treatment at a frontline battle station. Twelve thousand troops died on the day of the battle.



A Union battery fires on Confederate defenders from positions in Kirkwood.



Actors and attendees at "Civil War to Civil Rights," an oral history narration of Atlanta.

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*(L-R) Lake Claire neighbors Matt Crenshaw, Heidi Hill, and Sarah Wynn at the B*ATL Gala. Not pictured: Dan White.*

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Freedom Park Garden: Summer Update

The garden is continuing to grow and mature, but a little more rain could surely help. Mostly, we've been trying to keep the birdbath full and doing a little weeding—thanks to Diane Shellack and Lake Claire's Dorothy Dabbs and Bob Sattermeyer as well as Candler Park's Meta Larsson.

Lots of things have been blooming this spring and summer: the St. John's Wort, the Wild Senna,



The American Pokeweed.

the Gaura, and the Cardinal Flowers, as well as the Black Eyed Susans. We've got lots of food for lots of birds: the American Beautyberries are full of berries and the Purple Coneflowers have copious seeds.

Berries of the American Pokeweed (*Phytolacca Americana* L.) are about to turn juicy purple. Robins, towhees, mockingbirds, mourning doves, catbirds, and bluebirds will soon be feasting on them. And watch out, because sometimes the birds get quite drunk on the overly ripe berries. For people recipes, young pokeweed leaves can be boiled three times to reduce the toxin, discarding the water after each boiling. The result is known as poke salit, or poke salad. Other uses for the Pokeweed berries have been as an ink, a dye, and a coloring agent in wine. Grated pokeweed root was used by Native Americans as a poultice to treat inflammations. Pokeweed is indigenous to North America, and grows to be ten feet tall. It can be propagated by replanting pieces of root or by reseeding, but it usually does pretty well on its own—all too well, some may

say.

The bluebird box has been used at least once by the Eastern Bluebird family, and the usual suspects continue to visit the garden: Blue jays, American Robins, House Finches, and Chipping Sparrows. Red-headed Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Woodpeckers, and White-breasted Nuthatches are often heard nearby. A pair of Green Herons, a Great Blue Heron, a Belted Kingfisher, an American Goldfinch, and a Cooper's Hawk have been spotted within less than a quarter mile from the garden (we only take credit for seeing them, not attracting them—our birdbath isn't big enough for the herons).

The American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*), by the way, is a year-round resident in North Georgia. The male in breeding plumage is bright yellow with black wings and a black patch on its forehead. Some people call it the Wild Canary. Goldfinches nest later than other birds, waiting until wild thistle-down becomes available for nest building. The female builds the often watertight nest and does most of the sitting as well. They have one brood a year of four to six eggs. If you put up a Niger feeder and you're lucky, you'll get some of these perky little guys and gals in your yard. For further information, please visit http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Goldfinch/id.

The latest butterfly to visit the garden is the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), also a Georgia resident. It's very rec-



The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail.

ognizable with its bright yellow body and black stripes. Females can also come in a dark morph. This very common butterfly ranges from Alaska to Florida. Its favorite nectar plants include Purple Coneflower, Butterfly Weed, Liatris, and Zinnias, all of which we have in the garden. The ubiquitous Tulip Tree is one of its larval host plants.

Extra, extra! It's almost fall and time to think about two things, migration and fall planting. You can satisfy your migration lust by taking part in the Atlanta Audubon Society's fall migration walks. Information can be found at <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org> (click on Field Trips). And for your planting pangs, check out At-

lanta Audubon's 2010 Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Tour on the same website. It's being held in the Buckhead area on Saturday, September 11, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Charles Seabrook and John Yow will be there signing their recent books. And if you're still panting about planting, check out the website for the DeKalb Botanical Garden at Georgia Perimeter College, <http://www.gpc.edu/~decbt/>, to find out when they're holding their native plant sales and garden talks and walks. The first one is on September 1.

For more information and pictures, visit <http://freedomparkgardenbirdandbutterfly.blogspot.com/>.

—Carol Vanderschaaf



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Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting: August Minutes

August 19, 2010

Led by Kathy Evans

Attended by 23 neighbors (4 officers) and 7 guests

Minutes recorded by Heidi Hill

Kathy Evans, the neighborhood NPU representative, led the meeting on behalf of president Glenn Frankel, who was unable to attend. Kathy opened the meeting at 7:10 pm and invited guests to speak first.

Marvin Toliver, community relations manager for MARTA, spoke to the neighbors about MARTA's FY2011 budget. Service reductions and fare increases pose a financial challenge. He announced that more than seven hundred positions would be cut, along with reductions in customer services, such as restrooms, which will only be available in nine of the thirty-eight stations. Ridership has decreased substantially since 9/11. He then discussed the effects of HB277 on MARTA: the elimination of the 50/50 restriction on the current sales tax for three years (prohibits usage of new funds on wage increases, overtime, and benefits), no inclusion in the state transportation bonding program, and eligibility to receive transit funds through a new regional sales tax for new transit projects only. MARTA did not receive short-term or long-term funding at the 2010 general assembly and needs support from metro Atlanta residents.

Mr. Toliver passed out the FY2011 Adopted Budget Update and gave out his contact information for anyone who had questions (mtoliver@itsmarta.com).

Sharon Crenshaw, director of MARTA Mobility, was introduced to speak about MARTA Mobility buses serving the Frazer Center and their presence on Lake Claire streets, specifically Marlbrook and Ridgewood. She explained that the bus route was changed six months ago as a result of MARTA's assessment that the South Ponce entrance was not a safe route for the buses. The Frazer Center was consulted on the change, but Lake Claire Neighbors was not, because Mrs. Crenshaw did not know about the neighborhood association. When neighbors expressed their concern about the new bus route, Mrs. Crenshaw responded to them in writing and explained the decision. She passed out said letter to the neighbors at the meeting.

Trace Haythorn, the new director of the Frazer Center, was invited to speak on the matter. He discussed how the population of the Frazer Center has grown in the past two decades, which adds stress to traffic flow. He said the center had explored widening the road off South Ponce but that it would cost several thousand dollars and might infringe on the forest area. A small bridge on the road is also unable to handle large vehicles. He said the first step to reducing the number of buses on surrounding streets might be to consolidate routes. A neighbor suggested that one problem had been exchanged for another. Now the fact that there is no light or stop sign at the intersection of McLendon and Ridgewood, where several bad accidents have occurred, is even more of a concern.

Another neighbor offered that neighbors were concerned about safety, too, with twice the traffic volume on streets with no sidewalks where people are often walking. Would it be possible to enter one way and exit another way?

Speeding and running stop signs are also problems on Ridgewood and Marlbrook. Changes to the street structure are apparent since the buses started using them. Is there a way to adjust the timing and schedules of the bus routes? Another neighbor suggested revisiting the conversation with all interested parties involved.

Mrs. Crenshaw explained that the routes are what they are because bus riders with special needs are able to decide when they want to travel. Compliance issues (for MARTA and the Frazer Center), restrictions, and other criteria must be considered in any decisions. Kathy asked how neighbors could be involved. Mrs. Crenshaw left her email and said she would meet with Mr. Haythorn first, then the neighbors.

A neighbor on Ridgewood added that the speed of the buses is an ongoing issue, especially with more children and parked cars on the street. She had talked to the city about installing speed bumps but was told people weren't speeding

enough or often enough.

Mrs. Crenshaw encouraged everyone to call MARTA's customer service with vehicle number and date if a bus is observed behaving inappropriately.

Zone 6 Officer Sinks gave a crime update. He said the neighborhood was quiet since a few frequent burglars and car thieves were picked up. Police are looking for a white Dodge Intrepid with a spare driver's side front tire. Generally they're seeing a downward trend of crime in the

neighborhood. A neighbor asked if police could watch for cars running stop signs at the intersection of Clifton and Clifton Terrace. Another neighbor requested the same for the intersections at Marlbrook and Ridgewood and Almeta and Ridgewood.

Kathy then invited Valencia Hudson, public safety liaison for councilmember Natalyn Archibong, to speak. She said that the request at the last meeting to resurface Almeta was being addressed. A website for composites of criminals, etc., for neighbors is in the works, but she needs help to complete it. She also gave out her new email address (vhudson@atlantaga.gov). She offered to meet with MARTA and the Frazer Center to help resolve neighbors' concerns and said she'd ask about a four-way stop sign at McLendon and Ridgewood. She closed by giving out the number for free recycling bins and announcing that yard waste would be picked up every other week beginning the second week in September.

Kathy asked Mary Williams to give an update on the tour of homes. Mary told the neighbors that the committee was looking for sponsors until August 23 and invited people to spread the word to small businesses who might be

interested. The committee had raised roughly \$3,000 in sponsorship money to date. To find out more about sponsorship, buy tickets, and volunteer, visit www.lakeclairehometour.com. Volunteers are also needed to assist homeowners at tour homes on the day of the event, and those who do volunteer will receive a free ticket to the tour. Blake Williams directed people to the tour's Facebook page and encouraged people to become a fan to spread the word and attract sponsors.

Elise Cormier, VP of Environment for LCN, spoke next about the Harold Avenue greenspace. It is 90 percent freed of invasive species and now ready for native plantings. This fall, the neighborhood will be looking for plant donations and volunteers. Mr. Haythorn offered that the adults in the horticulture program at the Frazer Center might be able to help.

Next on the agenda was Teri Stewart's request for reimbursement for research on the Gordon family. Teri spoke about

her work as the neighborhood historian, a role she inherited from Bob Schreiber in the late 1990s. She has added to his files, and they are permanently available for neighborhood use. She has done research at the Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia and the DeKalb History Center and is working with African American communities in the area to learn more about the Gordon family. She has given

three presentations, at the Existentialist Church in Candler Park, the DeKalb History Center, and the BATL event. The reimbursement she was requesting was for costs related to this research and these presentations. She passed around a list of the expenses and other receipts. The total expenses came to \$740.27, but she was asking for partial reimbursement of \$499. According to the neighborhood bylaws, a motion can be brought to the association and voted on at the same meeting, rather than go through the two-month process, if the amount requested is less than \$500.

Kathy spoke on behalf of the executive committee, stating that while they were very interested in the history, the costs to be reimbursed were associated with Teri's lawsuit, and after seeking legal counsel, the committee came to a consensus that giving the requested funds would put the association in conflict with its bylaws.

Teri stated that the historical research was not part of the lawsuit.

Kathy said the bylaws state that the executive committee can advise the neighborhood against voting to give money. She then read an email attributed to Teri in which Teri said the money she was requesting was for Granmaw

Gordon (the lawsuit). Elise Cormier spoke to Teri directly, saying that it was not okay to vote on something that is in conflict with the bylaws. Kathy then read the amendment from the bylaws that stated the neighborhood will not support a lawsuit it has not initiated.

Teri said again that the historical research was not related to the lawsuit. She added that she did not believe the amendment referenced had been announced. Kathy said it had been announced, and voted on by the membership, per procedure.

Kathy continued that the letter she had read indicated that Teri was seeking money to fund a lawsuit. Teri said the letter had been taken out of context, and that the people who sent it on her behalf had misunderstood.

Elise asked if the event at the Existentialist Church was a fund-raiser for Granmaw Gordon. Teri said it was, but it was also a celebration of history. She asked if the people gathered could just vote on the request. Kathy stated that the legal advice given to the executive committee was they could not write a check in conflict of the bylaws.

Elise mentioned that neighbors had offered Teri alternatives for raising the money from private donations, so the neighborhood would not have to be in conflict with its bylaws. A neighbor suggested that the history was worth paying for, so could the cost of renting the Existentialist Church for the fund-raiser be omitted?

Kathy explained that the neighborhood had never reimbursed for efforts it hadn't approved beforehand.

Teri said that the executive committee should have said something to her about their concerns when they received her expenses, sent out August 1. She said she wanted to take a vote anyway, even though the executive committee would override it. She wanted the vote to be noted in the meeting minutes.

Elise spoke to Teri directly again, stating that the executive committee had talked with her about this for several weeks, and its position should have been clear. Teri said it wasn't and moved for a show of hands for support of her request.

Mary Williams said that she didn't feel she could cast a vote, because she would be an uninformed voter.

Cara Stevens, treasurer for LCN, explained that every year, money is given for charitable donations, and that was the time to request such funds. She added that the amount of money currently available for giving is \$4,000 and that the money awarded to the neighborhood by Natalyn Archibong's office was earmarked for other projects and not available for charitable giving.

Teri made motion for a show of hands. The motion was seconded.

Blake Williams said he was not ready to vote because he still had questions about the request.

Kathy suggested an alternate motion: to avoid the question of legal implications, the neighborhood could pledge to support improvements to the land if it was acquired. Teri said there was already a motion on the floor, and she just wanted to take the vote, even though it wouldn't make a difference.

A neighbor asked why a vote was im-

Next LCN Meeting

Thursday Sept. 16

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month at the Frazer Center. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are open to all. Sign up for the newscast at www.lakeclaire.org to get the meeting agenda.

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The Lake Claire Volunteer Corner

Get to Know Cynthia Baer



Cynthia Baer has a heart for service. Even as a busy, multitasking mother and realtor, Cynthia makes time to be an all-around good neighbor who finds time for volunteerism: "I believe in giving back. It's my job to," she says. A real estate agent with Keller Williams, Cynthia specializes in Lake Claire and Candler Park. Over the eight years that she has lived in Lake Claire, she's been involved in several volunteer activities and continues to look for new ways to

improve and enhance the neighborhood. Recently, Cynthia announced that she would donate a portion of each of her home sales to local neighborhood charities. This announcement comes as no surprise to her friends and neighbors, as Cynthia has always lent a helping hand to those around her, in Lake Claire and beyond.

TC: Where do you live in Lake Claire?

Cynthia Baer: Gordon Avenue. It's a "hidden street" near Sutherland Place. Mostly lots of families live in my area of the neighborhood.

TC: Who's in your household?

CB: My hubby, Michael; my three-year-old daughter, Addison; and sons William, 16, and Mike, 14. Periodically, Jessica, 21, our college student, comes by. And Loki, our little dog.

TC: In the eight years you've been in Lake Claire, what kinds of changes have you seen?

CB: More families have moved in, for sure. Because of this, there's been more new construction and/or additions to smaller homes to accommodate, and ever-growing community involvement.

TC: What are some of the ways you've been involved in the Lake Claire community?

CB: Right now, I'm heading up

the sponsorship committee for the Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour. I'm involved in the Fun Run planned for Lake Claire in the future. I've also worked on the Granmaw Gordon Greenspace with Teri Stewart. When my daughter was little, I was part of a neighborhood playgroup. And now, I help people buy and sell homes here.

TC: How did the idea for the Lake Claire Home & Garden Tour come about?

CB: Several people in the neighborhood expressed an interest to the Lake Claire neighborhood association. It's been six years since we've done it. I love going to neighborhood tours of homes. It will be nice to bring Lake Claire together this way, and I'm very excited to get involved and be a part of it.

TC: What is your job on the sponsorship committee?

CB: I'm working to find opportunities for local businesses to participate in a great cause that will benefit them as well. We really wanted to allow a low threshold for entry in order to be as inclusive as possible. I lead the committee in brainstorming ideas for possible sponsors, we contacted them to explain the benefits of participating, and then I keep track of it all. We've surpassed our original goal for sponsorships and are confident

that it will be a win-win for all involved.

TC: What's your favorite thing to do in Lake Claire?

CB: I love taking walks alone, looking at the trees and the variety of homes, old and new, around the neighborhood. I also love taking my daughter to Lake Claire Park.

TC: Do you volunteer outside of Lake Claire?

CB: Yes, I volunteer at my daughter's school, DHUMP (Druid Hills United Methodist Preschool), and in various projects at the boys' schools, Inman Middle and Grady High School. I'm a block captain for Gordon Avenue. As a family, we're involved with our church, Druid Hills United Methodist Church, and Boy Scouts.

TC: What do you like best about Lake Claire?

CB: I love that it's more like a small town within a big city. You know your neighbors and can easily get involved with the neighborhood. I love that it's walkable: pizza, coffee, and groceries are all available within a mile or so. I also like the eclectic variety of people and homes here in Lake Claire. I'm so fortunate to live here.

Check out Cynthia's blog at <http://atlantaadventuresinrealestate.com/>.

—Cecily Stevens

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LCN Meeting Minutes

continued from page 10

portant if the request wouldn't be honored. Although she respected the work Teri had done, she felt the request put neighbors in an awkward position. Teri responded that neighbors who had come to vote should be able to show their support. She added that anyone could abstain from voting if they didn't want to vote yes or no. A neighbor asked if this was the executive committee's final decision, and Elise responded that the committee had remained consistent on the issue since it was raised. Another neighbor asked if a new proposal could be drafted that would not put the association in conflict of the bylaws. Teri stated she didn't know how that could happen. A neighbor asked if the proposal could be resubmitted if the Existentialist Church costs were removed, as those seemed to be the only charges in contention.

Kathy explained that the request initially came to the executive committee as a request for funds for the greenspace, and then it was changed. The requested funds are tangled up in a legal case. The neighborhood association would be a vehicle for volunteer contributions, as it was for the Lake Claire Security Patrol. It won't fund, but it can help promote the cause. The neighborhood can find ways to support, but it won't do so retroactively.

Teri ended the discussion by reiterating that she went to the executive committee with a proposal for greenspace funding, and when she realized it wouldn't be accepted, she reviewed the expenses and saw items specifically related to the history. She resent the proposal with just those items in the hopes the committee would realize that they were separate costs.

Kathy moved on to the next agenda item: the variance scheduled for discussion had been deferred and would be heard at the September meeting. She asked for any final announcements.

Mr. Haythorn said that people had been dumping their yard waste in the Frazer Forest and also using the center's large Dumpster. He asked that neighbors keep an eye out for this illegal dumping, taking down license plate numbers or taking pictures for police.

A guest announced the opening of an exhibit entitled *One* at 112 Gallery, on Krog Street.

Don Long, the volunteer coordinator for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, announced an electronics recycling program run by Joe's Ladder. He also mentioned that neighbors had been letting their dogs use the Clifton property inappropriately and asked for suggestions on how to curb the behavior. A neighbor suggested posting signs.

A guest said that he was involved with the variance that was deferred until September and would stay after the meeting to answer any questions.

A neighbor told everyone that she lived at the property with the llamas on Hampton Terrace and would be leaving out a Rubbermaid bin with food safe for them to eat, so neighbors wouldn't accidentally feed the animals something hazardous to them.

The meeting ended at approximately 9:00 pm.

Celebrate Backyard Wildlife with the Atlanta Audubon Society on Sept. 11

Songbirds do more than provide us with an amazing array of colors, beautiful songs, and a sense of wonder as they flit about, nest in the most amazing places, and migrate hundreds and thousands of miles yearly. They also help pollinate the flowers, fruits, berries, and vegetables in our gardens and distribute seeds.

But songbirds are under tremendous pressure from loss of habitat and other factors related to the growth of urban and suburban areas.

On Saturday, September 11, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Atlantans will have an opportunity to visit several bird-friendly backyard habitats created by homeowners in Buckhead and Sandy Springs and the Blue Heron Nature Preserve, the home of the Atlanta Audubon Society, at the society's 2010 Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Tour. See and learn how cultivating backyard beauty can also contribute healthy places intown for our wonderful feathered friends.

And there's more! You can also meet two Georgia authors at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve and learn about their most recent publi-

cations. From 10:00 am to noon, award-winning nature writer Charles Seabrook will sign his book *Cumberland Island: Strong Women, Wild Horses* and will discuss his upcoming book about the ecology of the Georgia coast, to be published later this year. From 1:00 to 3:00 pm, John Yow will sign his funny and informative 2009 book *The Armchair Birder: Discovering the Secret Lives of Familiar Birds*.

In addition, the Georgia Native Plant Society will sell native plants, perfect food sources for native wildlife. Refreshments, AAS T-shirts, and other logo merchandise will be available for purchase throughout the tour. Children's activities will be held at noon.

For more details: <http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/aaswww/conservation/2010sanctuarytour/2010sanctuarytour.htm>.

Day-of-tour tickets are \$15 at sites #1 (570 Valley Lane) and #5 (3003 Howell Mill Road). Admission is free if you sign up to join the Atlanta Audubon Society on the tour date! Children under 12 get in free with adults.

—Tom Painter

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