



## Lake Claire's Spring Has Sprung – into Summer Fun



Wahoo Swim Team 2012 - Photo by Gretchen Connell

## Lake Claire Pool and Wahoo

**The Idea** of the Lake Claire Pool was to have a private membership pool that created a safe and fun environment while enhancing our neighborhood and the value of our homes. The pool was built by neighbors for neighbors and opened in July 2007. Although our membership draws primarily from Lake Claire and Candler Park, we do not have geographic boundaries, and members come from many surrounding neighborhoods.

**The Dream Becomes Reality** ... It was the idea of a Lake Claire resident Kim Bennett.

One day she asked her husband, Stosh, an avid swimmer, "What are the children in our neighborhood going to do every summer? I grew up without a neighborhood pool, and I don't want my child to have the same experience." With a little help from his friends (Mitch Jaffe and Scot E. Dunn), Stosh made the dream come true. It was not easy. Land was scarce, expensive, and needed to be in or close to Lake Claire. After a few years of scratching their heads – Kim came to the rescue once again.

*Wahoo cont. p. 8*

## The Faces of The Frazer Center: Profiling the staff and volunteers that make The Frazer Center tick

by Michael Daly

*Michael, reporter for the Clarion, spoke with Charlie Marie Jones, Inclusion Specialist at The Frazer Center.*

**Clarion: What is your role at The Frazer Center?**

**Charlie:** My role here at The Frazer Center as the Inclusion Specialist is to assist our students with special needs, as well as provide support and advocacy

*Frazer cont. p. 12*



Charlie Marie Jones - Photo by Michael Daly

## Summer Brings Second Retirement for 69-year Resident of Lake Claire

by Beth Damon

Reba Treon has lived in her house on McLendon for 69 years, except for four years that she went to (and graduated from) Bessie Tift College. She and her sisters grew up in the house. Her father was transferred to Atlanta from Jacksonville, Florida with Wilson & Company meat packers, and her parents bought the house when Reba was ten -- October 5, 1943 -- for \$11,500.

Reba's twin sister Rita passed away twelve years ago, and her older sister, Ulilla, lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Ulilla graduated in the last class from Girls' High School -- in 1947. Reba graduated from Bessie Tift in 1955 and started teaching at O'Keefe High School, which is now part of Georgia Tech. As I stood with Reba on her front porch in mid-June, she pointed out who had lived in all of the houses in sight over the years, and she mentioned ten or more who were also teachers, just in the two/three blocks on McLendon between the traffic circle at Southerland Place up to Ridgcrest.

After teaching at O'Keefe for

*Reba cont. p. 3*



Reba Treon - Photo by Beth Damon

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## Lake Claire Officers for 2012

Lake Claire Officers for 2012

President: Peg Ziegler, president@lakeclaire.org

Acting VP Finance, and Treasurer: Cara Stevens, treasurer@lakeclaire.org

NPU Rep: Carol Holliday, npu@lakeclaire.org

VP, Zoning: Dan White, zoning@lakeclaire.org

VP, Environment: Robby Handley, environment@lakeclaire.org

VP, Safety: Kathie Ryan, safety@lakeclaire.org

VP, Communications: Nancy Dorsner, comm@lakeclaire.org

Co-VPs, Fun(d)raising: Mary Williams and Alyson McCarthy, fun@lakeclaire.org

## Clarion Newsletter Staff

Clarion Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Beth Damon, editor@lakeclaire.org

Advertising: Jeanne Marie St. Romain, newsletter@lakeclaire.org

Distribution: Sarah Wynn, distribution@lakeclaire.org

Layout: Lore Ruttan, layout@lakeclaire.org

Webmaster: Position open

Contact Lake Claire Neighbors at PO Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, 404-236-9526 or www.lakeclaire.org.

*The Clarion is published monthly.*

*The deadline for advertising and editorial consideration is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words or fewer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not those of Lake Claire Neighbors, Officers, or Clarion Staff.*

*Banner art by Lore Ruttan, Illustrator, www.loreruttanillustration.com*

# Mark Your Calendars

## July

**4** Well, you know what it is. Be kind to your pets on July 4. See June Clarion article on Firework Noise and Pets.

**11** and 18 and 25 - the Dekalb History Center's "Log Cabin Storytelling" series. July 11, "Cowboys and Cowgirls Across the Country" and July 25, "Fun with Folktales." The events take place at the historic Biffle Cabin, 720 W. Trinity Place, in Decatur, behind the Swanton House. Events are targeted for ages 6 to 12. Reservations are suggested. Call Leslie at 404-373-1088 extension 20 or e-mail borger@dekalbhistory.org for reservations or information.

**13**-Aug. Horizon Theatre presents the world premiere of Thomas W. Jones' Sheddin' (The King of Comedy meets the Cosbys) – see horizontheatre.com or call 404.584.7450

**14-22** B\*ATL commemorates the Battle of Atlanta with many events. See website at www.batlevent.org

**17** 7:00 p.m., B\*ATL kick-off with Jeffrey Haas, author of The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther. Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square, Decatur GA 30030, Second Floor, Superior Courtroom)

**17-26** "Little Wild Things 4s and 5s" Drop off your little Wild thing with Miss Cassandra for a wonderful Oakhurst Garden journey (these days: 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, & 26). Experience the magical life cycles of the garden, dig in the earth, plant the seeds, find worms, and we'll feed ourselves and the chickens. Perfect for ages 4 & 5. Pre-registration required. See website Oakhurstgarden.org.

**18** Fiddlin' Dan the Mountain Man delights young audiences with stories and songs with North Georgia flair. Dekalb History Center's "Log Cabin Storytelling" series. (See above July 11.)

**19** (and 3rd Thursday every month) Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7 p.m., The Frazer Center, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Avenue. 7pm social time, 7:15 prompt start time. Graciously hosted by the Frazer Center, in the ROSE Room (not the Atrium).

**25** "Fun with Folktales." Dekalb History Center's "Log Cabin Storytelling" series. (See July 11.)

**28** "Jerry Jam" Grateful Dead tribute at the Lake Claire Land Trust, 4:00-11:00 pm. (See article on page 15.)

## August

**11** Friends of Candler Park Screen on the Green Present "Wall-E"

**16** (and 3rd Thursday every month) Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7 p.m., The Frazer Center, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Avenue. 7pm social time, 7:15 prompt start time. Graciously hosted by the Frazer Center, in the ROSE Room (not the Atrium).

**25** Friends of Candler Park Screen on the Green Present "HUGO" Send calendar items for AUGUST's Clarion by July 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org.

Send calendar items for August by August 15 to **editor@lakeclaire.org**.

## To Help You Keep an Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Safety Report Weeks 17, 19-21

Although Candler Park (the park itself) and the Arizona Avenue Soccer Complex are not in Lake Claire, they are close by and have seen a recent increase in crime which is important for us to know about. The Arizona Soccer Complex has experienced three after hour break-ins in the last month or so and one pedestrian robbery involving a handgun. As for Candler Park, there have been two auto thefts, one theft from auto, and two "Other Larceny" incidents. It is important to keep your car keys, purses, cell phones, backpacks, and other items either on your person or within your sight at all times. Most of these crime incidents in CP involved victims leaving keys and/or bags close by while they "played" in one fashion or another. Be warned: the thieves often watch and wait for the moment you're distracted to steal your possessions.

### Auto Theft

**1500 block Clifton Terr., NE** 5/7-8/12 22:30-04:00  
Victim states that her 2700 Honda Odyssey disappeared overnight leaving only broken glass in its place on the street. The vehicle was found abandoned, but no prints were found.  
Damaged: passenger's window Taken: GPS unit

### Theft from Auto

**400 block Ridgewood Rd., NE** 4/22-23/12 15:00-08:00  
parked in street  
No vehicle description Damaged: driver's side window broken Taken: GPS unit  
Prints not found

**300 block Mathews Ave., NE** 5/8/12 00:01-08:50  
parked in street  
No vehicle description Damaged: driver's side window broken Taken: nothing

**400 block Ridgewood Rd., NE** 5/7-8/12 20:00-08:20  
parked in street  
2009 Honda CRV Damaged: driver's side window broken Taken: change  
Prints not found

**400 block Clifton Rd., NE** 5/21-22/12 09:30-09:00  
parked in driveway  
No vehicle description Damaged: front passenger window broken Taken: iPod, GPS  
Vehicle processed for prints

**500 block Harold Ave., NE** 5/21-22/12 21:15-07:45  
parked in street  
No vehicle description Damaged: back passenger window broken Taken: laptop  
Vehicle processed for prints

## Reba's Second Retirement cont. from p. 1



*Reba Treon's House on McLendon - photo B. Damon*

five years, Reba went to work for Dr. F. Kells Boland, Jr., M.D. Three and a half years later, she left Dr. Boland and went back into teaching, at Therrell High School. She was a teacher there from 1964 to 1975, at which time she was promoted to be the Therrell Registrar. In 1984, she was promoted to principal of Sylvan Hills Elementary School. She



*Rita and Reba at Bass Community High School graduation - 1951*

retired from Sylvan Hills in 1997.

Reba found that she didn't like retirement, so she went to work at the Records Center for the Atlanta Public Schools as auditor of the records. She retired again just two weeks ago, as the APS doesn't let retirees work any longer.

Though Reba was not thrilled about retiring, she has many interests – her main one is her Boston Terrier, Cinco (he is her fifth

Boston Terrier). He was a little shy during my visit. Dr. Boland gave Reba the first Boston Terrier, who was aptly named "Doc." She enjoys crocheting. She is an active member of First Baptist Church of Atlanta - since 1961.

Rita didn't want to "toot her own horn," but admitted that she had the honor of being selected to be Star Teacher at Therrell and also had the year book dedicated to her. In just a short conversation, Reba gave me tidbits of history from her own family, neighbors, and Lake Claire over the last 60+ years, an amazing and interesting time of change.

Following are some of Reba's fondest memories of the last 69 years in Lake Claire. "One of my favorite memories is the horse-drawn Highland Bakery truck! And they had one of the best orange chiffon cakes!" Reba has not been to the Highland Bakery in its new incarnation as a trendy brunch spot.

"The feeder bus is a fond memory - it went to Clifton where the streetcar ended. L. C. Huff was the driver of the feeder bus, and he took care of all the passengers.

"I remember Mr. Wright," Reba continued, "the postman that walked the route, carrying a large tan leather mail bag. He was such a dear.

"And there was Henry Nash Dry Cleaners on Clifton. Mr. Nash picked up and delivered the cleaning."

Two drug stores were located at Clifton and McLendon. On the right going to Little Five Points was Waller's Pharmacy. "Doc Waller was a sincere gentleman!" Reba exclaimed. On the left where the Flying Biscuit is located now stood Culpepper's Pharmacy. Mrs. Culpepper was

the pharmacist, and her husband worked the counter. Then there is Mary Lin Elementary School – Reba fondly remembers Miss Mary when she was the principal as "a little old lady with pinched nose glasses." On their first day at Mary Lin, when the twins were ten, Miss Mary told their mother that they must have their vaccinations before being admitted. So Mrs. Treon complied, returning the children to school by late morning so they could be counted as being present that first day. At graduation years later, the sisters received awards for perfect attendance.

Reba remembers Bass Junior High School – where she attended grades 7 through 9 - in Little Five Points. She noted that in 1947 it changed to Bass Community High School. She said also that Boys' High School, Tech High School, and Girls' High School changed to Grady (both Boys' High and Tech High) and Roosevelt High School.

She spoke of McMichael's Grocery, next door to Culpepper's Pharmacy, where part of the Flying Biscuit is now located. Mr. Mac, as he was called, had a delivery boy who rode a bi-

cycle with a huge basket on the front to deliver groceries. His name was J.R. (not Junior), and he later bought property across the street and built a larger self-standing store.

Another memory is Mr. Still's Filling Station where Fellini's Pizza is located. "Mr. Still had a scratching post on the corner that was featured in Life magazine," said Reba. And she spoke of Lake Claire Baptist Church at McLendon and Southerland Terrace, near her home. The area was very picturesque, Reba told me. "A nice creek ran through the property before the parking lot and church were built. Where the parking lot was built is now the Circle, and the church itself is now private living quarters.

"Everyone had coal furnaces, and the coal truck would deliver coal and dump it through a basement window into the basements." Wistfully, she mused, with a smile, "Oh for those good old days of shoveling coal into the stoker!"

*If you are a 30-year-plus Lake Claire resident, contact me at [editor@lake-claire.org](mailto:editor@lake-claire.org) - Beth*



*Reba said about this picture, "This is one of me and Rita bar-b-queing in the back yard. All of the homes had bar-b-que pits and fish pools!"*



# Save the Date November 10 is the next Lake Claire Home and Garden Tour!

by Lake Claire Home and Garden Tour Committee

**We Need Volunteers!** The Lake Claire Home and Garden Tour Committee has met, and there is a commitment to plan our third annual event but we need two more members for our planning committee and volunteers to help on November 10. What do members of the planning committee do? The planning committee meets monthly (weekly closer to the event date) to make decisions and assign tasks for the following: tour stop selection, sponsorship, advertising, volunteer coordination, and artwork. If any of those tasks sounds exciting please contact [fun@lakeclaire.org](mailto:fun@lakeclaire.org) to participate in the July meeting.

What do volunteers do on November 10? Volunteers are asked to take a 2-hour shift at one of the tour stops to greet the public, check tickets, and to provide additional supervision to ensure the home or garden is respected.

The Lake Claire Home and Garden Tour has been the major fundraising for our neighborhood in 2010 and 2011. This year, we are discussing possible ways to make the 2012 Home and Garden Tour an exciting evening in Lake Claire. Childcare may be provided for couples who want to have a night out with neighbors. More information to come!

# Annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade

by Allyson McCarthy

The Lake Claire Halloween Parade needs your help! Each year, families come out dressed to impress and to parade through Lake Claire in costume. This year, the Lake Claire executive committee would like to make this event bigger and has plenty of ideas, but **we need volunteers** to head up the planning.

If there is an organization, club, or individuals who love this annual celebration and can help, please contact [fun@lakeclaire.org](mailto:fun@lakeclaire.org).

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# Lake Claire Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (7:15 meeting starts). Meetings are open to all. Residents and property owners in Lake Claire may vote. Meetings cover subjects such as upcoming neighborhood events; reviewing variances to city zoning within Lake Claire; providing a community voice to city elected representatives; and other interests and concerns. Often the LCN monthly meeting is a couple of days after the Clarion goes to press, but when timing works out, and we have space, we include the minutes or a summary of the meeting. Please know that if we don't include the minutes, as we have not in this issue, you can always find the minutes on the website at [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org). AND (as I've been requested by some self-identified "old timers without computers"), I will be happy to print a copy for you. Just leave a message specified for the editor of the Clarion on the Lake Claire Neighbors voice mail (404-236-9526) with your request and providing your address.

In May the members approved all officers taking an Oath of Office. Henceforth, this oath will be taken by all new officers of the Lake Claire Neighbors. All officers present at the June meeting took the oath, as did the Clarion editor (voluntarily, because she suggested this oath of office to the Executive Committee). This is the Oath of Office: *"As an Officer of Lake Claire Neighbors Inc., I solemnly and sincerely swear before the Membership that I will represent the neighborhood organization in a fair and positive manner, faithfully perform my duties, promote the welfare of the neighborhood, and will in no way betray the people's trust. I will be meticulously careful to safeguard confidential information available to me by virtue of the office, such as mailing lists and finances. In dealings with people and organizations, I will be careful in my statements and actions, knowing that I represent the neighborhood. This is my solemn oath."*

## Next LCN Meeting

### Thursday July 19

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month, graciously hosted by the Frazer Center. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. for social time, and 7:15 p.m. – prompt beginning of the official meeting. Meetings are open to all. See past meetings' minutes or sign up for the news-

cast to receive the agenda in advance at:

[www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org).

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# Current and Past Battles

## Opposition to Proposed Suburban Plaza Walmart Gains Strength

by Ann Mauney

Good Growth DeKalb, formed to mobilize opposition to a Walmart at the North Decatur/Scott Boulevard intersection in Decatur, has developed significant grassroots strength in six months. Street rallies, a community forum, and an outreach walk have gotten out the word

and attracted extensive media coverage. During the past three months, teams have canvassed door-to-door in all the nearby neighborhoods, approached local businesses for support, and are systematically communicating with elected officials. These grassroots efforts have produced

results: over 2,000 petition signatures; over 400 Stop Walmart yard signs in the area; and over 30 **No to Decatur Walmart** signs in windows of local businesses (with nearly 100 businesses welcoming Good Growth DeKalb literature).

Since the scandal broke about Walmart bribing Mexican officials for building permits and then closing down its internal investigation, Good Growth DeKalb, joining other groups nationwide, has called on our elected officials to disclose campaign contributions from Walmart and from Selig Enterprises, the Sub-

urban Plaza owner. During the legislative session, five State Representatives from DeKalb ushered through the legislature House Resolution 2064, praising Good Growth DeKalb's grassroots activism for smart growth.

The work continues. Good Growth DeKalb asks all area residents concerned with the proposed Walmart's negative economic and traffic impacts to communicate concerns to our elected representatives: DeKalb Commissioners Jeff Rader ([jrad-er@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:jrad-er@dekalbcountyga.gov) 404-371-2863) and Kathie Gannon *Walmart cont. p. 13*



Demonstration against WalMart - Photo by Victoria Webb

## B\*ATL = Food, Fun, and History

by Will Bryant

Each year, the organization B\*ATL commemorates the Battle of Atlanta. The Lake Claire Neighbors Association has been represented on this Board since B\*ATL's inception. This year is the 148th anniversary of the Battle of Atlanta, which was fought July 22, 1864. There are several fun events planned, including the music presentation by Joe Gransden and his BIG BAND.

The neighborhoods in Atlanta's 5th Council District team up to organize B\*ATL events. The battlefield is actually in these neighborhoods, where people live and work and play today. This will not only be an event of remembrance, but also one with fun for everyone including: a Gala Dinner, a 5K run, Van and Walking Tours, a re-creation of the Frontlines with Re-enactment Soldiers and artillery, a Civil War to Civil Rights Tent with civilian re-enactors, historic music concerts and dramatic performances, shopping and dining in East Atlanta and Kirkwood,

and more!!

Some things of note for Lake Claire Residents, that are Battle of Atlanta and Civil War related, is that a good portion of the Union Army's Army of the Tennessee was encamped along Dekalb Avenue between Moreland Avenue and Decatur. In fact, it was soldiers that had been encamped along Dekalb Avenue the morning of the July 22 that were moved to the vicinity of Crim High School, half a mile to the South, who fired the first shots of the Battle and prevented a stunning Confederate surprise attack. Famed Confederate General John B. Gordon's home and plantation was in Lake Claire (near the location of the Horizons School, and thus the name of Gordon Avenue). Union troops were mainly in Lake Claire to cut off the Georgia Railroad, to ensure supplies and reinforcements could not easily reach Atlanta by way of Augusta.

*B\*ATL cont. p. 13*

## YOUR NEIGHBOR, YOUR LAKE CLAIRE AGENT!

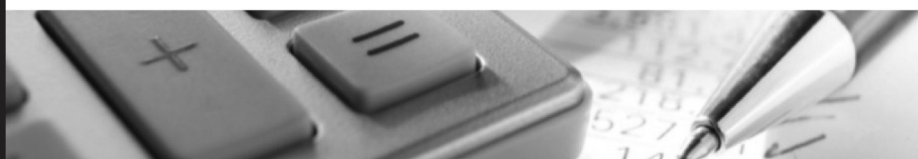
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# Summer Bamboo in Lake Claire

by Beth Damon

In the summer, bamboo has its day in the shade...and the sun. New shoots of bamboo have been coming up all month. They come up quickly, and within three days they often grow from a little tip just peeping out of the ground to a 30-foot high culm (stalk). It is a thing of beauty – or a thing of

The American Bamboo Society is in favor of planting bamboo in the right circumstances, but gives instructions on getting rid of it when the wrong variety is in the wrong place. Since the most common bamboo in Lake Claire is the runner type, I've concentrated on that. First, cut it off. Each culm is not a separate "tree." You then must dig out the rhizomes, which are shallow, and if you do it every year, you will drastically cut down continued growth. Whenever new shoots come up from the rhizomes you must break or cut them off. Without green leaves to photosynthesize and produce

dine on bamboo 10 to 16 hours a day. They require a variety of bamboo species and, with a 220-pound-a-day consumption, a significant supply. The zoo often seeks donations of bamboo from private landowners. To inquire about donating bamboo located on your property, call the Bamboo Hotline at 404.624.5884 (as of this Clarion publication, not accepting requests due to overstocking, but keep trying).

## Summertime from Wisconsin to Lake Claire

by Gay Arneri

Summertime has been many different things for me over the years. It started out as a vast landscape of time and space in the magical Northwoods of Wisconsin. Even as a young girl I savored quiet fishing in a tiny row boat for hours at a time. Or wild raspberry picking along the shore of an ancient lake, sharing the goods with our chipmunks. Birds would fly into our picture window, giving themselves little birdie concussions or fatal birdie head injuries. Then would come the ritual birdie funeral. Forever friendships were formed over those early years. Fast forward to today and we are all in our fifties and sixties. What happened?

Contemporary summertime here in Lake Claire is many things to many people. As for me,

I seem to be striving to recapture the serenity of my childhood summers. Lately I have been getting outdoors in the early evening. Pulling weeds seems to conjure up a peacefulness not unlike that of fishing. My chickens softly cluck and coo in the background. If I try I can hear my dog Winky padding through the grass near me. She is busy hunting. Hunting what I'm not sure, probably squirrels. This spring she actually ate a whole nest of new baby cardinals. The little so'n'so. I just don't know what to call her when she does things like that. "Disgusting" is one name that came to mind at the time.

Anyway, after all that lovely "magical" this and "peaceful" that, this summer is also packed with travel plans. First a trip with my grandson Nathan to the farm, then day camp for him, a week in Colorado to visit our Lake Claire escapee, then another trip to the country for the 4th of July, then more day camp, then a family trip --perhaps even to my old stomping grounds in Wisconsin-- before classes catch up with us all again. Hardly sounds peaceful but there will definitely be something there for each of us. It would be so awesome to introduce Nathan to fishing at my old lake in my old fishing spots. I did that with my son Tim when he was Nathan's age and had an absolutely unforgettable trip. Another story.

The recurring theme here as I read back over this little piece seems to be making memories. Whatever you decide to do, I hope you make some fond memories with you and your loved ones this summer.



Bamboo Grove, Hasedera, Japan

horror to someone continuously fighting its spread.

Lake Claire has some beautiful groves of bamboo, planted for privacy, shade, or even for the love of the look, sound and feel of bamboo. There is the beautiful example entering the Frazer Forest from Bill Fleming's property on Harold. It is a peaceful bamboo grove welcoming visitors to the Forest. Bamboo can be a natural privacy fence, blocking views and sounds, the gigantic grass often 30- to 50-feet tall. Some bamboos also produce edible shoots that are tasty when cooked. You can make instruments out of it, not to mention cutting boards, flooring, etc.

Bamboo should only be planted after much thought about which species is best for the area; the "runner" type is extremely invasive, and in a warm climate with lots of water, it can become a serious problem. I planted it along a back fence for privacy 23 years ago, with a cement trench to "contain" it, but the bamboo took over – my cement trench wasn't deep enough, and the rhizomes (underground runners) have traveled over the years to become a problem for me – and my kind and suffering next-door neighbors.

new energy, they will not be able to send up new shoots.

Remember that you must dig out all of the pieces, the entire root and rhizome mass, including fragments. You can snap off new shoots at soil level while they are small and tender, and they will be deprived of nourishment from above and will die off. The best tools to use are shovels, hatchets, axes, picks, and pry bars. Removing a well established grove is a daunting task, but if you are vigilant, this is all you need to do; you must, however, constantly be on the watch. A rhizome barrier is essential – but it must be three feet deep. Barriers can be concrete, metal, or plastic, and you can obtain one from some landscape suppliers and bamboo nurseries. Ponds or streams also act as barriers.

Widely advertised herbicides do not work well on bamboo, because most of the plant is underground. People ask about using Round-Up or other herbicides, but these poisons are taken in through the leaves. Herbicides are a waste of time and money – not to mention harming the environment.

Of course, there are certain others who relish bamboo: the Atlanta Zoo's giant pandas

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# Teach For America

by Michael Daly

**June 1, 2012.** The end of May and the start of June typically mark the end of the academic school year for the majority of public, private, and charter schools in **Atlanta**. It is a time for teachers and administrators to reflect on the year gone by and to look toward and plan for the year that lies ahead. As a newly appointed Head of School for a soon-to-be opening public charter school in **Dekalb**, I am less involved in the process of reflection than I am in submerging myself in the myriad tasks that go into the start-up of a new school. It is in this capacity and with this mindset that I find myself on the first morning of June, in an airy gymnasium on the campus of Georgia Tech to participate in a series of round-robin teacher candidate interviews organized by the organization **Teach For America**.

For the uninitiated: **Teach For America (TFA)** is a non-profit organization with a stated mission to recruit "outstanding college graduates, from all academic majors, to commit to teach for two years in schools serving students from low-income backgrounds to close the achievement gap that exists between these students and their peers growing up in more affluent areas." By any measure, this is quite an admirable mouthful in both scope and ambition. The Teach For America organization was founded twenty-two years ago by an undergraduate student named **Wendy Kopp**, who devised the outline of the organization as part of her senior thesis at Princeton University.

I arrive to the interview event and am promptly signed in by a friendly TFA representative and directed to my place at a table assigned to my school, the **Dekalb Preparatory Academy**. As I prepare for my interviews I take a moment to survey

a scene of humming activity. The gym is divided into two sections, with the basketball court's half-court line dividing rows of eager teaching candidates from a phalanx of interview tables manned by principals, assistant principals and school recruiters from around Atlanta.

The candidates are dressed and pressed for business and epitomize the phrase *bright eyed and bushy tailed*. They comprise an eager sea of navy blue and white business attire that is occasionally peppered with splashes of color in the form of floral prints, business ties, and one notable pocket square. The school representatives, on the other hand, look significantly less bright eyed and bushy -- despite being fueled by complimentary coffee and Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

I have attended my share of job fairs in the past, but this is the first time I have been on the hiring side of the table. The feeling is bittersweet as I still feel somewhat bright eyed and busy tailed myself, and I would like to think I appear so to the young men and women who sit before me, but I have the regrettable suspicion that I do not. When did college graduates become so young?

**The Dekalb Prep** table is situated just to the right of the free throw line, and I wonder if the candidates look at the table placement in metaphorical terms. If so, my placement must seem an encouraging place from which to take a shot. Much better than the table placement of several other schools at half court, which may suggest they would be tough schools in which to teach.

After a brief introduction and explanation of the time constraints, the candidates are gathered and released across half court and directed to their scheduled interviews. Each candidate is interviewed for 10 minutes, quick conversational pairings that remind all involved of speed dating. Resume highlights, personal statements, educational philosophies, and passions for education are all expressed - interrupted only by the interviewers'

questions and the "three-minute warning" announcement. Hands are shaken, thanks are given, and the next candidate arrives to repeat the process.

The air in the gym is heavy with optimism on the TFA candidate's side of the interview table. On the interviewer's side, a healthy dose of optimism exists as well, but it is tempered and sprinkled with a twist of pessimism and eyebrow raising skepticism. The question for many on the hiring side of the table is, "Will this kid sink or swim in front of my students? Will he or she be more trouble than they are worth? Will he or she be able to manage an unruly class, or will constant assistance be needed? Is it even wise or fair to put these inexperienced and eager wide eyes in front of our neediest children, whose eyes can often look sleepy, and whose attitudes are often less than eager?"

These are not small questions.

The TFA candidates who come before me are a diverse group of men and women with impressive resumes considering they have just graduated from college. They are scholastically and extra-curricularly driven, and all interview very well. For the majority, there is no discussion of classroom experience because at this point they have none. Almost all mention the chance to help poor children and close the achievement gap as major reasons for applying, and many cited their own good fortune to have had solid educational opportunities. Indeed, these responses reflected the tenants of the TFA model whose literature states as a goal for graduates to complete their two-year commitment and form a "pipeline of leadership for careers that impact the achievement gap, including becoming master teachers, superintendents, principals, policy makers, business leaders, and elected officials."

Just to get to this interview is something of an accomplishment. In order to be accepted by Teach For America, these applicants have already survived a lengthy process, with thousands cut at each step. This includes an online application; a phone interview; presentation of a lesson plan; a personal interview; a written test; and a monitored group discussion with several other applicants.

What most of them don't have is any experience teaching children in a classroom setting. This will be somewhat remedied as all of these soon-to-be-teachers will soon embark on a five-week crash summer course in classroom practices. The goal is to provide them with adequate

preparation for them to lead their own classes once school resumes again in August.

## Stepping Stones on a Tough Road.

A June 12, 2010 NY Times article by Michael Winerip, the On Education columnist for The Times, described the *stiff competition among graduates from top colleges for jobs with Teach For America*. "Teach for America has become an elite brand that will help build a résumé, whether or not the person stays in teaching," wrote Winerip.

This begs the question: Are the TFA candidates committed to teaching our neediest kids, or is this just a feel-good exercise that can pad a resume? This is one reason that TFA has received mixed reviews from some education experts, who complain that the recruits do not stay long enough to gain the experience to make them effective teachers. TFA's proponents point out that the poorest schools don't attract the top career teachers to begin with. Does Teach For America's popularity among top students raise the status of the teaching profession? Or is there a risk that it makes teaching seem more like a personal steppingstone, rather than a lifetime career?

A 2009 study by Stanford sociologist Scott McAdams compared TFA alumni, or "graduates," with individuals who were accepted into the program but did not join and with individuals who dropped out before completing their two years. The study found that levels of civic engagement—as measured by factors such as voting and charitable giving—were lower among TFA graduates than the other groups, for reasons such as exhaustion and burnout. However, while graduates did not necessarily become more civic-minded individuals after TFA, the study did find that they are more likely to remain involved in education than their peers.

## From Baby Steps to Stability

I contacted **Becky O'Neill**, Communications Director for TFA, to ask about TFA graduates and the data regarding their role in education beyond the two-year commitment. Ms. O'Neil reported that, "according to our annual alumni survey, 64 percent of Teach For America corps members stay in the classroom beyond the two year commitment."

When asked how many stayed in education beyond five years Ms. O'Neil cited the same study that found, "Among our more than 24,000 alumni, two-thirds are working full-time in education, and half of those educators are classroom teachers

*Teach for America cont. p. 10*

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## Wahoo cont. from p. 1

Kim and Michele Jaffe had been in the Claire Drive Book Club for many years. One evening during a serious book discussion Kim and Michele mentioned the idea to one of the founding members of the Book Club – June Garber. June looked at these ladies with total surprise and said, “Why don’t you talk to Les (June’s husband and Director of Horizons School) about building the pool at Horizons Schools?” Lake Claire Pool was built shortly thereafter.

**Wahoo Begins!** In winter of 2007, Kim, Stosh, and their son, Stanley decided to leave their Claire Dr. Bungalow to renovate a 100-year old home on Southerland Terrace – moving them that much closer to the pool. Little did they know that this would seal the fate of the pool’s greatest success – The Wahoo Swim Team! Across the street lived a family of five – The Ericsons. The Wahoo Swim Team would have eventually happened, but we are where we are today primarily for the drive and passion of Eric and Jeannie Ericson. There are many, many others to thank for assisting this effort – they know who they are - Shannon Goines, Melissa Thurmond, Melissa Pressman, Sara Dimitri-Carlton, Anna and Michael Hinson, and many more!

For more information on the Lake Claire pool, visit the website: <http://www.lakeclairepool.com/>



Addison and Olivia - Photo by Gretchen Connell



Olivia - Photo by Gretchen Connell



Lake Claire Pool - Photo by Beth Damon



Max, Will and Janice - Photo by Gretchen Connell

# Drowning Doesn't Look Like Drowning

by Mario Vittone



The new captain jumped from the deck, fully dressed, and sprinted through the water. A former lifeguard, he kept his eyes on his victim as he headed straight for the couple swimming between their anchored sport-fisher and the beach. "I think he thinks you're drowning," the husband said to his wife. They had been splashing each other, and she had screamed, but now they were just standing neck-deep on the sand bar. "We're fine; what is he doing?" she asked, a little annoyed. "We're fine!" the husband yelled, waving him off, but his captain kept swimming hard. "Move!" he barked as he sprinted between the stunned owners. Directly behind them, **not ten feet** away, their nine-year-old daughter was drowning. Safely above the surface in the arms of the captain, she burst into tears, "Daddy!"

How did this captain know – from fifty feet away – what the father couldn't recognize from just ten? Drowning is not the violent, splashing, call for help that most people expect. The captain was trained to recognize drowning by experts and years of experience. The father, on the other hand, had learned what drowning looks like by watching television. If you spend time on or near



Olivia - Photo by Gretchen Connell

the water (hint: that's all of us) then you should make sure that you know what to look for whenever people enter the water. Until she cried a tearful, "Daddy," she hadn't made a sound.

As a former Coast Guard rescue swimmer, I wasn't surprised at all by this story. Drowning is almost always a deceptively quiet event. The waving, splashing, and yelling that dramatic conditioning (television) portrays is rarely seen in real life.

The Instinctive Drowning Response – so named by Francesco A. Pia, Ph.D., is what people do to avoid actual or perceived suffocation in the water. And it does not look like most people expect. There is very little splashing, no waving, and no yelling or calls for help of any kind. To get an idea of just how quiet and undramatic from the surface drowning can be, consider this:

It is the number two cause of accidental death in children, age 15 and under (just behind vehicle accidents) – of the approximately 750 children who will drown next year, about 375 of them will do so within 25 yards of a parent or other adult. In ten percent of those drownings, the adult will actually watch them do it, having no idea it is happening (source: CDC). Drowning does not look like drowning. Dr. Pia, in an article in the Coast Guard's On Scene Magazine, described the **instinctive drowning response** like this:

1. Except in rare circumstances, drowning people are physiologically unable to call out for help. The respiratory system was designed for breathing. Speech is the secondary or overlaid function. Breathing must be fulfilled, before speech occurs.

2. Drowning people's mouths

alternately sink below and reappear above the surface of the water. The mouths of drowning people are not above the surface of the water long enough for them to exhale, inhale, and call out for help. When the drowning people's mouths are above the surface, they exhale and inhale quickly as their mouths start to sink below the surface of the water.

3. Drowning people cannot wave for help. Nature instinctively forces them to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water's surface. Pressing down on the surface of the water permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.

4. Throughout the Instinctive Drowning Response, drowning people cannot voluntarily

*Drowning cont. p. 10*



Fairy Parties - see Land Trust news on p. 15

**Teach for America** *cont. from p. 7*

today. Notably, only one in six had been considering a career in teaching before applying to the corps. Ninety percent of alumni working in schools serve low-income communities."

This was a far greater number than I expected. Indeed, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. schools hire more than 200,000 new teachers for that first day of class. By the time summer rolls around, at least 22,000 have quit. Even those who make it beyond the trying first year aren't likely to stay long: about 30 percent of new teachers flee the profession after just three years, and more than 45 percent leave after five.

By the end of the TFA event I had conversed with twenty-two

candidates who were all about to embark on one of the greatest challenges of their young lives. The next five weeks will be humbling, and they will emerge with a much different mindset in terms of the art and the craft that is involved in effective teaching. Will this make them effective teachers? Probably not, but as with all first year teachers, the support they get from the schools that hire them will make all the difference. In my experience it takes a good three years to get your educational footing. If the candidates that I interviewed have the stamina and support to get them through the next few years, then I believe they can be the agents of positive change in children's lives that they hope to be.

ing corps members, there will be approximately 450 Teach For America corps members teaching in Metro Atlanta this fall. The incoming corps members are currently living at Georgia Tech and participating in an intensive five-week training institute and a regional orientation to the schools and communities in which they will be teaching. During this time, corps members teach in summer school programs, receive feedback from veteran teachers, and complete a regimen of seminars and practice sessions designed to build the capabilities required to advance student achievement. During their regional orientation, corps members complete additional training sessions on establishing clear goals for their students' achievement, planning for instruction, and preparing to use data to inform their approach.

**Drowning** *cont. from p. 9*

control their arm movements. Physiologically, drowning people who are struggling on the surface of the water cannot stop drowning and perform voluntary movements such as waving for help, moving toward a rescuer, or reaching out for a piece of rescue equipment.

5. From beginning to end of the Instinctive Drowning Response, people's bodies remain upright in the water, with no evidence of a supporting kick. Unless rescued by a trained lifeguard, these drowning people can only struggle on the surface of the water from 20 to 60 seconds before submersion occurs. (Source: On Scene Magazine: Fall 2006)

This doesn't mean that a person that is yelling for help and thrashing isn't in real trouble – they are experiencing aquatic

distress. Not always present before the instinctive drowning response, aquatic distress doesn't last long – but unlike true drowning, these victims can still assist in their own rescue. They can grab lifelines, throw rings, etc.

Look for these other signs of drowning when persons are in the water:

§ Head low in the water, mouth at water level

§ Head tilted back with mouth open

§ Eyes glassy and empty, unable to focus

§ Eyes closed

§ Hair over forehead or eyes

§ Not using legs – Vertical

§ Hyperventilating or gasping

§ Trying to swim in a particular direction but not making headway

§ Trying to roll over on the back

§ Appear to be climbing an invisible ladder.

If "everything looks OK" – don't be too sure. Sometimes the most common indication that someone is drowning is that they don't look like they're drowning. They may just look like they are treading water and looking up at the deck. One way to be sure? Ask them, "Are you all right?" If they can answer at all – they probably are. If they return a blank stare, you may have less than 30 seconds to get to them. And parents: children playing in the water make noise. *When they get quiet, get to the child to find out why.*

Shannon Goines: This is exactly what was happening with my younger daughter in a hot tub full of children at a party with many adults standing around. I sprinted across the pool and grabbed her on about her 3rd wordless bob-up. Scary stuff. Excellent article.

## CLARION Final Four Q&A with TFA Communication Director Becky O'Neill

### 1. Do you place any TFA teachers in schools that serve the Lake Claire community?

Of the specific schools mentioned, in 2011-12, we placed in Coan and a number of high-needs public charter schools (including KIPP, Ivy Prep Academy, Main Street Academy, International Community School, and Drew Charter School).

### 2. How many alumni are still in education?

Two out of three alumni are working full-time in the field of education, almost half of them as classroom teachers. In addition, more than 550 alumni now serve as school leaders impacting the lives of over 500,000 students each year, while many alumni social entrepreneurs are founding and leading some of our country's most innovative nonprofits.

### 3. Whom does Teach For

### America Recruit?

We recruit at more than 370 colleges and universities, seeking seniors and graduates from all academic majors and backgrounds who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, perseverance and leadership, and a commitment to expanding opportunity for children in low-income areas. Our goal is not simply to enlarge the applicant pool, but rather to reach those potential applicants best positioned for success in the classroom. Our recruiting efforts are especially focused on individuals who share the racial and/or socioeconomic backgrounds of the students in underserved public schools, many of whom are African American or Latino.

### 4. How many TFA corps members are in Atlanta?

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[Dan@nealandwright.com](mailto:Dan@nealandwright.com)

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# The Garden in August

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Looking ahead to what is either Summer or Late Summer (since the season runs into September here), I will say, as I write one month before, that this is the mildest June I have experienced in years. After a hot start in March, the season has cooled off although it is still dry. Unlike our neighbors outside the perimeter, we have seen those rain clouds either swerve around Lake Claire or, at most, deposit a drizzle. With a lot of watering this spring (soil beneath the first quarter inch was always bone dry), we harvested lovely lettuces and perfect peas (particularly Wando as it is resistant to heat). At the same time, the squash are already succumbing to vine borer and the squirrels are peering at my gigantic green tomatoes.

Speaking of soil, each time an area is emptied of its plants, whether the seasonal vegetables or the annual flowers, it is time to mix in several inches of compost. Fortunately, compost is ready quickly in our climate. As soon as your pile or bin of finished matter is depleted, turn over the pile that has been finishing to give yourself more ready to use. At the same time, turn your newest pile, layering in a starter if you wish; begin a third pile of kitchen scraps, weeds, and, most of all, LEAVES, the ones you saved last winter.

As you read this, it is not too late to start the brassica seedlings indoors, but August is the month to seed new leeks, kohlrabi, and lettuces under the plant lights. If they balk at germinating, try them in the shade of a tree, covering the pots with a plastic tray to keep squirrels from burying nuts in them. Let your plants get as large and healthy as possible because the transition to the garden in August and September is brutal with not only heat but also many insects. You will need to keep an eye on the weather, looking for a few cloudy or cooler days, ideally just before it rains. I constantly monitor [weather.com](http://weather.com) for 30307, especially the ten-day forecast. Frankly, tropical storms are our friends.

When you see a little break like this, transplant the broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, and cauliflower plants you started last month to the garden. Water well. Fertilize heavily. Add lime if soil is acidic. Often, if my broccoli began mysteriously to wilt, I have saved them by liming around the stems and pouring water to soak it down around the roots. Also, most of these plants should be

dusted with BT to kill the worms that white cabbage butterflies lay on the leaves. BT does something inside the stomachs of cabbage worms (which are exactly the color of broccoli leaves) but is not considered a poison. That said, do not eat it.

August is also the month to direct-seed many vegetables for the fall garden. Listen, if you don't plant something, you will be kicking yourself all the way into December. Beets, carrots, turnips,

soil or thin mulch; but the smaller seeds may need to be covered with a board or cloth that is checked daily and removed as soon as green is seen. If the new seedlings seem to be struggling in the heat, try temporary sunshades like old lawn furniture or cardboard boxes with bottoms removed. If insects threaten, use the lightest thickness of row covers until pollination is needed.

Lately the first frost date is often in December. Last year it



Mixed Greens Seedlings - Photo by Lore Ruttan

collards and kale, squash, bush beans, cucumbers, and the various Asian vegetables can all be sown now. Garden peas and spinach can also be started, but I might wait another month with them as they are so heat intolerant, plus spinach will last all winter. Try soaking your seeds for a couple of hours before planting, and then plant them just a little deeper than directions say. Not a lot. Then gently but deeply water. Bean, pea, squash, and cucumber seeds, being large, can force themselves through dry

was Jan. 3, 2012, in my garden, I kid you not. For plants that will be killed by any frost, you need three months to harvest or enjoy them. Not only low temperatures but also lack of light will cause them to grow slowly and perhaps not fruit at all. However, starting in August, you can grow more marigolds, celosia, basil, and even okra. I assume that the perennials you started last month are big enough for slightly larger pots now. Set them out in light shade, and keep watered.

If we are in a drought, do not mow; let the lawn go without water until you can see your footprints when you walk across it. When you do water, make it long and deep, measuring at least an inch if you are using a sprinkler, early in the morning and only once a week. If the crown of the grass plant is kept alive, lawns will be lush again when fall rains arrive (if fall rains arrive). The automatic systems I see running in Druid Hills give each section about fifteen minutes of water every one-two days; people standing with a hose running do not do much better as it is really tedious. That does NOT lead to deep roots. Any kind of soaker system can do better. Monitor your vegetables and flowers to see how much they really need. With shrubs and big vegetables like tomatoes, you can punch a small hole in the bottom of a plastic jug, fill it, and place it by the stem of the plant. That way all the moisture is delivered right to the roots. Also, it is easy to fill these jugs with a hose as you move around the garden.

Potted plants are very popular these days when we have limited ground and sun. These WILL need frequent watering as their sides as well as tops are subjected to intense heat. By now my tomato growing in a joint compound bucket (with holes punched in the bottom) is needing to be watered every day if it does not rain. Soak your potted plants until water runs out the bottom of the container. I am sure you know they need to be fertilized more too as their limited soil is soon depleted.

*Elizabeth welcomes your gardening questions/comments - [knowltonew@earthlink.net](mailto:knowltonew@earthlink.net). -Ed.*

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# How to Steer Birds Away From Your Windows

by the National Wildlife Foundation via Gay Arneri

Experts offer tips for homeowners who want to minimize the number of bird-window strikes at their houses. Window collisions with low-level structures like houses account for between 100 million and 1 billion bird fatalities in the United States each year.

The long-term solution is to design glass that is less reflective, but in the short-term, here are some tips. Make sure birds are not flying at full speed when they hit. House plants hanging on the inside or vegetation reflecting from the outside may mislead a hapless bird into thinking the area is a passage to safety. But if feeders, baths, and other bird attractants are placed three feet or less from the window, no matter how fast the bird takes off, if it hits the window it will bounce to the ground, dazed but alive. To help a bird while it recovers, place a colander over the bird, and weight it down so that it can't be tipped over by a predator.

Cover windows with netting during peak migration seasons. If it's not possible to remove or relocate bird perches and feeders, home owners can cover windows with netting, especially during peak migration periods. Soccer-grade netting is best but it must be stretched taut so that birds don't get caught. If they collide

it will act like a trampoline and bounce them to safety. An old storm-window screen hung outside the window will also work well.

Decals of falcons, owls, or spider webs on windows rarely work. When effective the decals become impractical, as they'd have to cover 80 percent of the glass. When using silhouettes, hang them by chain or rope from an overhang so that they will stand out more by blowing in the wind.

Consider placing a few dead branches in front of a problem window. The branches will reflect, but they'll also slow the bird down a bit. Planting a shade tree or some shrubbery close to the window will serve the same purpose, as will an awning. Hang streamers of shiny, reflective plastic ribbon or strips of black garbage bags in front of problem windows. Anything that glitters and moves in the breeze will help prevent a bird from colliding with a window. Finally, let windows get a little grimy. The dirtier the window, the less reflection and the more birds will see it as a solid object.

*Frazer Center cont. from p. 1*

to their families. In doing this, I attend IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) meetings, and IEP (Individualized Education Plan) meetings. My role is to make sure that our students are receiving the best possible services that specifically cater to their needs. In doing that, we (teachers and administration) are able to properly plan and prepare our classroom environments, teacher knowledge, and overall atmosphere for the needs of our students.

In addition to working with the families and individual children inside of the classrooms,

I also guide our teachers through our curriculum and lesson planning process.

**Clarion:** *Can you explain how The Frazer Center promotes and fosters the idea of inclusion?*

**Charlie:** We believe that every child has his or her own set of unique gifts and talents that should be fostered in a community that believes all children have the ability to learn together and from one another. In our program we have typically developing children learning right alongside those children with special needs. Our goal is to create a new generation of thinkers who do not see race, ethnicity, ability, or disability. Our teachers and administrators work hard at creating a loving environment that puts the child before the disability, and allows that child to grow in his or her own special way. Each child that comes to our program is treated as an individual, and is seen for her or his great potential. We look to increase awareness not only among our students, but their families, as well.

**Clarion:** *What are the benefits of having disabled children and children without disabilities taught together?*

**Charlie:**

The benefits to this model are endless! First and foremost,

we are building upon a generation of thinkers that will learn patience, tolerance, understanding, and how to see their peers for their abilities and not their disabilities. We are able to come together as a community of educators and learners to support the needs of one another.

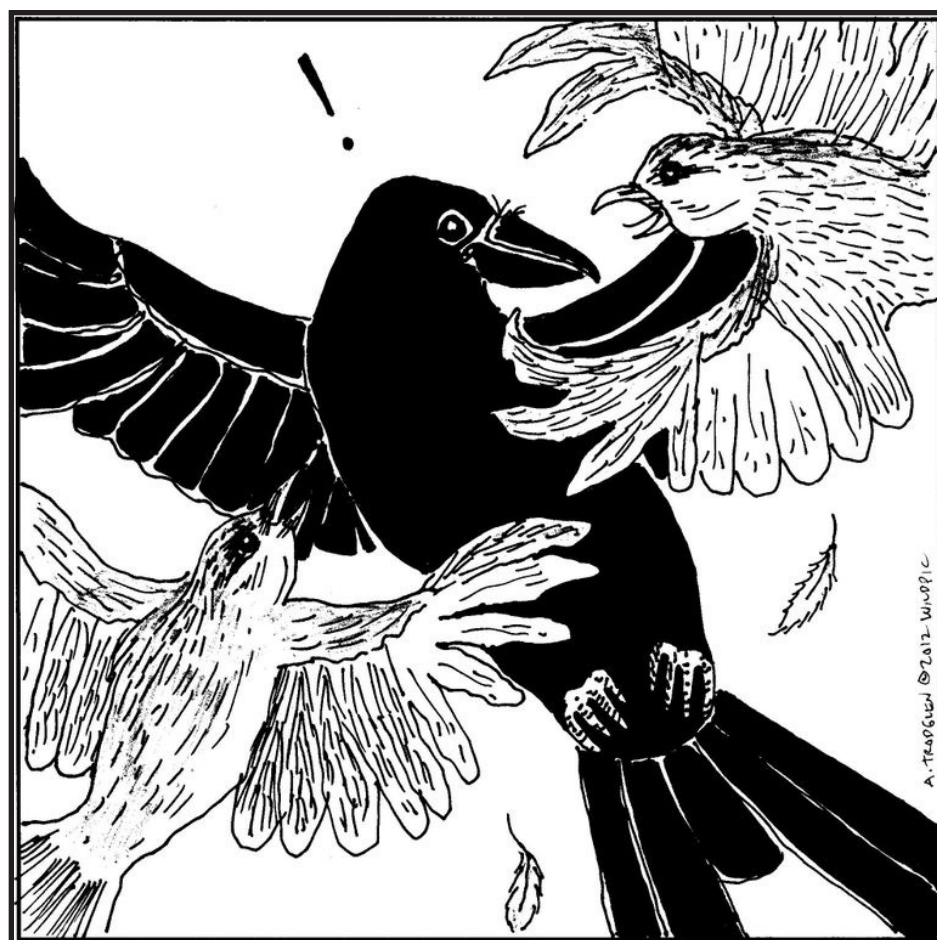
**Clarion:** *What is the best part of your job?*

I think the most rewarding piece of my job is seeing our students flourish. We have had children come into our program unable to verbalize, sit next to a peer for circle time, or even walk. Seeing them achieve these goals at the end of our program is amazing, and it's all in part to the hard work our teachers, parents, and outside therapist put into seeing our students grow. Being able to see them thrive is amazing, and it is a feeling that is irreplaceable.

**Clarion:** *What role do you see for The Frazer Center in the Lake Claire Community (what do you think people should know?)*

I see The Frazer Center being a bright light to our community; creating strong partnerships that allow us the ability to be a model program of inclusion not only in Lake Claire and this part of Atlanta, but throughout the state of Georgia.

## Biscuits and Bellyrubs



Anna Trodglan draws our *Biscuits and Bellyrubs* series. A life-time Atlanta resident, Anna grew up on the edge of Lake Claire. She lives in East Atlanta Village with her husband Dugan, three terriers, and a Black Cat. Find Anna's greeting cards and prints at Donna Van Gogh's, owned and operated by Lake Claire residents.

  
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*Good Growth cont. from p. 5*



Jeff Rader and protestors - Photo by Victoria Webb

(kgannon@dekalbcountyga.gov) 404-371-4909; and DeKalb CEO Burrell Ellis (ceo@dekalbcountyga.gov 404-371-2070). Good Growth DeKalb attorneys will be closely examining the building permit applications Selig and Walmart submit to the county. Visit our web site [www.GoodGrowthDeKalb.org](http://www.GoodGrowthDeKalb.org) to sign the petition, ask for a yard sign, make a contribution, and/or volunteer!

Join us **July 13 and August 10**. Oppose Walmart at Suburban Plaza! Rally--N. Decatur Rd./Scott Blvd./Medlock Rd. intersection in Decatur, 5 – 6:30 pm. **Bring a sign with your concern: e.g., Even worse traffic; Loss of local businesses; Low-wage jobs and net job loss. We now know: Walmart spent \$24 Million on bribes in Mexico! (NY Times 4/22/12) We ask: How much in Georgia campaign contributions?**

Please wear a yellow t-shirt - stand up and be noticed! We will have some extra t-shirts and signs on hand. Pass the word, and please join us! Find more information, donate, sign our petition, and join our Yahoo group by going to [www.GoodGrowthDeKalb.org](http://www.GoodGrowthDeKalb.org).

*B\*ATL cont. from p.*

Lake Claire is an official neighborhood member of B\*ATL, which includes Lake Claire, Cabbagetown, Edgewood, East Lake, East Atlanta, Kirkwood, and Reynoldstown. We are working to restore Battle historic monuments for posterity. We would love to have more involvement from Lake Claire residents in the Future (adding tours in Lake Claire that could include a walking tour of the Southerland plantation area, or other events). Along with promoting and restoring history, another one of our goals as a group is to bridge geographic boundaries (such as the railroad, I-20, and Moreland Avenue) and to work together as

communities to uplift all of council district 5. Following are some of the events this year for kids and adults:

\*Free Storytelling at the Kirkwood and East Atlanta Libraries (A slight aside - both facilities are great facilities and under-utilized by neighbors on the north side of the tracks even though they are relatively close, and it might be a good introduction to services that folks are paying for, but not taking advantage of.)

\*Living History Encampment Also free, watch a cannon fire, soldiers drill and fire their weapons, and see a recreation of typical entrenchments that were found around Atlanta at the time of the battle. This event takes place in Gilliam Park just south of the AYSA fields on Arizona Avenue. You could bike or walk over from Lake Claire, and see what is happening. The soldiers here are more knowledgeable than typical reenactors, and have in many cases taken on an actual person's character or done much research about life as a civil war soldier (no battles are fought; it is largely historical demonstration like Williamsburg).

\*Tours!- we have a whole lineup of tours, ranging from walking, biking, and vans from local cemeteries to full scale battleground.

\*Doublequick 5k- in Kirkwood, started by Living historians running through Kirkwood along the ground where runners and scouts were scurrying all day on the day of the battle.

\*Gala -- your annual chance to see the inside of the East Lake Golf Club, enjoy food and entertainment (by Joe Gransden and his Big Band), which sits on the Eastern Front of the Battle.

\*Author Talks - We

have several authors lined up to speak throughout the week at the Carter Center, the Cyclorama, and the Dekalb History Center (Old Courthouse) [see article below by Melissa Forgery.—ed.]

\*Abe Lincoln (living historian)

\*Civil War to Civil Rights -- the B\*ATL Players present how the civil war changed the lives of Atlantans during the period after and up to the civil rights era.



"Honey Bee" by Lore Ruttan

## B\*ATL Author Series Kicks Off with Jeffrey Haas

by Melissa Forgey, Dekalb History Center

This year B\*ATL offers an exciting lineup of free author presentations examining flash-points from the Civil War to Civil Rights. The DeKalb History Center is partnering with B\*ATL to present the first author while various events run from July 14-22 at venues across southeast Atlanta.

The first author program features Jeffrey Haas, author of *The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther*. How does a white boy from 1950s Atlanta grow up to become the attorney for the plaintiffs in the notorious Chicago case Hampton vs. Hanrahan and then write such a book? He will discuss the book, his personal history, how it intertwined with Atlanta's and resulted in this riveting story. Mr. Haas was raised near Chastain Park, and his family goes way back in the history of the Atlanta. One of his forbear cousins built a street railroad to the Battle of Atlanta frontlines in the East Atlanta Village just 16 years after the battle. Coming from a leading Jewish family, his grandfather defended Leo Frank in the famous trial

that ultimately resulted in an anti-Semitic lynching. The case played out near Cabbagetown and Grant Park and the current Pencil Factory Lofts. Mr. Haas' father worked with area Congressman John Lewis in his early days with the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee registering voters during the Civil Rights Movement. Mr. Haas' mother worked with the Atlanta International Committee to bring the world to Atlanta by integrating Atlanta's Hotels.

But what about the book? Ramsey Clark, former United States Attorney General said, "This is an extremely important book--and a tale well told--for America to read if it wants to become what it says it has always been--the land of the free and the home of the brave." B\*ATL Chairman, Henry Bryant, projects that attendees to the lecture will find the Atlanta family's history just as interesting as hearing about the book." (This event is free and open to the public. Monday, July 17, 7:00 p.m., Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square, Decatur GA 30030, Second Floor, Superior Courtroom)

### Thank You Intown Atlanta!

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# Oakhurst Community Garden Project

The Oakhurst Community Garden Project (OCGP) teaches environmental awareness through hands-on gardening and outdoor education programs. The OCGP has been instrumental in helping create the outdoor garden environments at many of the schools in Decatur and is also helping guide the Farms to School initiative in Decatur. The OCGP is located at the corner of South McDonough Street and Oakview Road in Decatur, just southwest of Agnes Scott College.

OCGP was founded in 1996 as a regional nonprofit organization. Over the past few years, the interest in living a more green and sustainable lifestyle has grown tremendously. OCGP has teamed up with the Community Garden Project, the City of Decatur, and the DeKalb County Public Library, and are pleased to announce their collaboration on offering you an exciting FREE series of classes in 2012. Topics include gardening for food and for the unpredictable environment, how to make your home more efficient, composting, and using what you have to lead a healthy life. Events take place at the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore Street Decatur, Georgia 30030, or at OCGP, 435 Oakview Road, Decatur, GA 30030. Classes are open to Lake Clairions and other nearby neighbors. See the

calendar (this Clarion, page 2) for descriptions of classes taking place in July (e.g., July 11 Easy Cheese-making; July 14 Mission Impossible Gardening and Make a Mushroom Grow Basket; July 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 – Summer Wild Things for 4s and 5s). Please RSVP to Andrea Zoppo, [andrea.zoppo@yahoo.com](mailto:andrea.zoppo@yahoo.com). To see classes taking place the rest of the summer go to <http://www.medlockpark.org/2012/02/free-green-lecture-series-starts-this.html>.

Oakhurst Community Garden has plots for growing vegetables, fruits, and herbs. It also offers plants and herbs for sale. A sandbox, play space for kids, picnic area are on the grounds. Lake Claire residents are encouraged to explore the opportunities

## Lighting Your Home Helps Deter Break-ins

By Duncan Cottrell

Most petty burglars don't want confrontations and avoid houses with someone at home. Lights, radios, and televisions on timers can be a good deterrent for break-ins by giving the appearance of occupancy and activity. The timer plugs into a wall outlet, and the appliance plugs into the timer.

A darkened home night-after-night sends a message to burglars that you are away from home. Timers are inexpensive

and can be found at many local hardware, home improvement, and convenience stores. Ideally, they should be used on a daily basis, not just when you're away, so that you set up a routine that your neighbors can observe and will allow them to become suspicious when your normally lighted home becomes dark. Typically, prime locations to install and use light timers are near the front and back windows - with the curtains closed. The pattern of lights turning on and off should simulate actual occupancy. Leaving them on all the time negates their effectiveness. The same light timers can be used to turn on radios or television sets to further enhance the illusion of activity.

Exterior lighting in common areas, driveways, or garages will enable you to see if there is a threat or someone suspicious lurking around. If instinct tells you something is amiss, avoid an uncomfortable situation, and retreat in another direction. Exterior lighting needs to be bright enough for you to see 100 feet, and it helps if you can identify colors. Good lighting is a deterrent to criminals because they don't want to be seen or identified.

Security lights with infrared motion sensors are highly recommended for single family homes. They are inexpensive and can easily replace porch, garage, or side door lights. They typically come with a photo-cell to turn on at dusk and turn off at dawn. The motion sensor can be adjusted to detect body heat and can be programmed to reset af-

ter one, five or ten minutes. Remember, leaving these lights on permanently is a dead giveaway that you are out of town. For a free home security assessment, contact me at [Duncan@EntryEnforcer.com](mailto:Duncan@EntryEnforcer.com); 404-289-6960.

## Your Dog Saving the Planet

Use Biodegradable Dog Waste Bags

by Lynn Nomad


There is a very important reason to use biodegradable dog waste bags. Using a regular plastic bag to pick up your dog's waste will end up in the soil for a thousand years. While they may cost a little bit more, the biodegradable bags are better for the environment, and you will be handling your doggie poop in a way that is good for people and the planet.

You also do not want to leave the waste in the ground (of course, this is a reason to keep your dog on a leash). By bagging it, you will be helping support cleaner drinking water; according to recent studies, there are an estimated 400 million dogs on the planet, and their waste is being introduced into the water supply. In addition to preventing the spread of disease and helping to keep drinking water clean, the bags are compostable. So, should you have your own compost pile, you can throw your own dog's used dog poop bags into the compost and just let nature take over from there. Over time you are able to turn that waste into fertilizer for your garden. Most biodegradable bags are also flushable, so you are able to dispose of them in this way as well.



Come on, dog owners, let's improve our Lake Claire environment in this tangible way.



"Puppy Love" - Photo by Lore Ruttan



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# Faeries, Farmers, Art and Adventure! Enchanted & Educational Birthday Parties at the Land Trust

by Andrea Zoppo

Your child will love having his or her next birthday within the magical canopy of the Land Trust. Andrea Zoppo, a.k.a. Miss Lady Bug, and local teacher Amy Price are now offering themed parties right here in the neighborhood. Depending on what you and your child fancy (and space availability), you may have either Amy or Andrea lead your birthday child and guests on an enchanted/educational journey through the gardens and passages that make the Land Trust so special. Themed and seasonal activities generally include a take-home craft, game, and treasure hunt/exploration. Our current themes are "Urban Farm Party" and "A Faerie Affair."

Miss Lady Bug and Amy host parties all the time at the Oakhurst Garden. Miss Lady Bug also offers professional face painting, balloon animals, and themed costumes. She can be a pirate, princess, frilly or Funky Faerie, or a farmer. She's even experienced in Cat-themed parties. MeWow! Amy specializes in Urban Farm Parties, and she is an experienced environmental educator. Amy enjoys sharing her knowledge about the cycles of nature and the fun of growing food in your own garden. During the week you can find her teaching gardening activities to our friends at **the Frazer Center**, both kids and adults.

Relax and enjoy your child's special party as little guests are entertained and engaged in the

wonders of nature. You may choose to have your party with a themed activity and host, or you may choose to have just a colorful character doing face-painting while your children play and socialize with friends and family. Generally, themed activities last 45 minutes to an hour. When you add face-painting, activities may take up to 1 hour and 45 minutes, depending on the number of children.



Recently, Miss Luna Lady Bug (she adds Luna when she is a faerie) had a charming time painting faeries, making faerie wands, sharing poems with flute accompaniment, and searching for faerie treasure! Each child went home with a beautifully painted face, a handmade faerie

wand, a sparkly treasure, and a renewed sense of wonder and joy shared with their faerie friends. A portion of the proceeds for faerie parties goes to the Land Trust. To find out more and to inquire about availability, contact [andrea.zoppo@yahoo.com](mailto:andrea.zoppo@yahoo.com) with Land Trust Party in the Subject line.

(See also pictures on Page 9). All were taken by David Callihan at a Faerie Party in April. See more about Andrea at [LunaLadyBug.com](http://LunaLadyBug.com) and at [oakhurstgarden.org](http://oakhurstgarden.org).



## Fiddlin' Dan the Mountain Man

Fiddlin' Dan the Mountain Man (Lake Claire's own Reuben Haller) delights young audiences with stories and songs with North Georgia flair. His stories are populated with animals and kids getting in and out of predicaments, chores, and summer activities. "Dan" plays violin, mandolin, spoons, and many other instruments. Kids sing along and play along with Fiddlin' Dan's songs, stories, and humor. For a celebratory grand finale, the whole audience forms a jug band!

This performance is July 18 and is part of the Dekalb History Center's "Log Cabin Storytelling" series. Other events in July include July 11, "Cowboys and Cowgirls Across the Country," and July 25, "Fun with Folktales." The events take place at the historic Biffle Cabin, 720 W. Trinity Place, in Decatur, behind the Swanton House. Events are targeted for ages 6 to 12. Reservations are suggested. Call Leslie at 404-373-1088 extension 20 or e-mail [borger@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:borger@dekalbhistory.org) for reservations or information.

## Happenings at the Land Trust in July

**Saturday, July 7 and 21** – Land Trust drum circle, dark till midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool. No alcohol or drugs allowed.

**Sunday, July 8 and 22** (the day after each drum circle) – "Keep the Trust" Volunteer Work Day, 3:00-6:00 pm. Volunteers get free pizza and a drum circle pass.

**Wed. July 4** Potluck & Cook-Off, 4:00 pm. This year's theme: Peaches. Bring a dish to share, plus plate, cup and utensils. Some non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. Contest entries must include peaches in some form. Sign up to be a judge for \$1.00. (Contest entries should arrive by 3:45.) Prizes will be awarded, followed by kids' games.

**Sat. July 28** "Jerry Jam" Grateful Dead tribute, 4:00-11:00 pm. (See article.)

### AUGUST

**Sat. Aug. 11** Nuclear Watch South benefit

### SEPTEMBER

**Sat. Sept. 8** Fall Fest Land Trust fundraiser

**Thurs. Sept. 20** Arizona Pub Night

### NOVEMBER

**Sat. Nov. 10** Veterans' Watch benefit

### DECEMBER

**Sat. Dec. 1** Holiday Arts & Craft Sale

**Thurs. Dec. 20** Arizona Pub Night

*"The mission of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust is to acquire, maintain, and protect green space for neighborhood enhancement and education; and to provide a place for neighbors and friends to celebrate nature, community, and the arts."*

## A Musical Tribute Join Us for the Jerry Jam, July 28 at the Land Trust

by Stephen Wing

We'll be Jerry Jammin' at the Land Trust again this summer, Saturday, July 28, from 4:00 to 11:00 pm. Live at "The Mark" stage and amphitheater, our fourth annual Jerry Jam fundraiser is a tribute to the life and music of Jerry Garcia, the late singer, songwriter, and lead guitarist for the Grateful Dead. Three live bands (*TBA as of the Clarion deadline*) will perform Dead (songs). The Gorilla Grill will be serving food and beverages. Gates open at 3:00 p.m.

Jerry Garcia (Aug. 1, 1942-Aug. 9, 1995) is loved and

remembered around the world by millions of "Deadheads" and other music lovers. Most famous for his contributions to the San Francisco psychedelic music scene, he was also instrumental in bringing country and rock music together through his proficiency in banjo-picking and pedal steel guitar. He is also the granddaddy of the "jam band" phenomenon, influencing groups as diverse as Phish and the Dave Matthews Band. His impact on the world continues to ripple out 17 years after his death.

## Epworth Day School Camps This Summer 2012 by Epworth Day School (Michele)

Kindergarten Boot Camp has arrived in 30307! This is a 2-week Kindergarten Prep camp in July for Atlanta's proud May 2012 Pre-K Grads who are entering K this upcoming school year. This academic-based camp is an opportunity for upcoming "K-ers" to learn about school rules and procedures and become accustomed to the expectations of kindergarten. Students will be a part of a safe and fun learning environment that will boost their confidence as they head into elementary school. Class activities will include social skills to help students demonstrate appropriate ways to interact with teachers and peers. Daily activities include reading readiness and large and small group literacy centers. Students will participate in engaging learning experiences related to numbers and math, science discoveries and much more.

Weekly Camps are available for those ages 2.5 to 6 almost every week of July. You just pick-by-the-week. We also have a few "Specialty Camps" for the older kids, including "Cheer Camp," which allows kids to shout, tumble, and roll...and so on. All camps and offerings can be found on the "Summer Camps 2012" tab of the EDS website...[www.epworthdayschool.com/summer\\_camps\\_2012](http://www.epworthdayschool.com/summer_camps_2012).

### Personal and Business Classifieds

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## Volunteer

Tish Ganey, who has done a fantastic job managing the website, plans to leave soon. Seeking volunteer with website experience including WordPress site administration, web hosting tasks such as set up of e-mail alias; FTP file uploading and creating hyperlinks. Time: Approximately 3 hours in a calendar quarter. Great way for someone to help the neighborhood - only uploading the Clarion is time-sensitive so ideal for someone who wants to choose his or her own hours.



## LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



I hope this is a fun series and a way for young readers to participate. This month's article is by Olivia Ledbetter. The Ledbetters moved to McLendon Avenue in May of 1998. In 2001 Olivia was born. A few years later in 2004, her brother, Max, was born. Olivia will be in the 5th grade at Mary Lin Elementary this Fall. She loves art, her hamster, her dog, animals, riding horses, and the swim team ... of course!

Hey, Lake Claire kids -- Submit articles, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). Be creative...we'd love to hear from you.

## My Thoughts on Lake Claire Pool and The Wahoo Swim Team

by Olivia Ledbetter, age 10



Olivia Ledbetter - Photo by Gretchen Connell

When Lake Claire pool opened in July of 2007, I was so excited to have a pool close to my house. The Swim Team at Lake Claire started in 2008, but it was more for fun. In 2009 we really started competing. In 2009 I joined-- thinking I would NOT like it, but I was wrong. Once I started I fell in LOVE with Swim Team. The coaches are nice, and the swim meets are fun. If you are not sure if you want to swim at the meets, you can just go to Wahoo practice (but trust me most people eventually decide to compete). You must be a Lake Claire pool member to join Wahoo Swim Team.

The Wahoo Team has grown from 50 swimmers to 127 swimmers. We have around 50 Junior Wahoo members also. Next season if you are potty trained and between the ages of 3-6, you can join the Junior Wahoo to work on your swimming and still be part of the team. After having a very successful and undefeated season last year, we moved up to a bigger division this 2012 Season.

Pool Safety is very important. Lake Claire Pool has lifeguards, offers swim lessons, and

has posted rules. The Wahoo Swim Team helps with safety also. It creates stronger and safer swimmers. For example, my brother (Max) swam his first 25 yard freestyle race when he was 5 in 2010. He used only one of his arms and one of his legs, and his time was 1 minute 55 seconds. For his race last week he swam the 25 yard freestyle in 24.8 seconds. Now our mom no longer has to watch him like a hawk at the pool.

I love Lake Claire Pool and the Wahoo Swim Team. If you decide to join next year, I bet you will too!!!

**Kids: find the honey bee in the Clarion each month!**

## If your Clarion does not appear on your doorstep

If you do not receive your Clarion by the end of the first week of the month, please e-mail Sarah Wynn, the Clarion Distribution Coordinator, at [distribution@lakeclaire.org](mailto:distribution@lakeclaire.org) or Beth Damon [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org).

We will then contact your volunteer street carrier to find the problem and get your paper to you! Please let us know if you do not receive your Clarion in this timeframe. (Also let us know if you are willing to be a backup Carrier for when your Carrier has an unavoidable delay.).

