



Coming December 13

## Happy Holidays! Annual Neighborhood Party

Only a few weeks left of 2012...how did that happen? And believe it or not, December is "Hi, Neighbor Month" (no kidding). So come to connect with your neighbors at the annual December holiday party. Come for conviviality, chow, cheer, and catch-up

to vehicles (open to pedestrians), so if you drive in from Lake Claire, you'll likely exit on Ponce de Leon. Finally, please note that the party is the second Thursday, not the customary third Thursday of the month. We hope to see you there.



with folks you haven't seen in a while or relax with those with whom you've been working throughout the year. Our tradition is that the December gathering is a pot-luck dinner instead of a meeting. Vegetarian and meat lasagnas are provided by the LCN organization, and we ask neighbors to bring desserts and salads (*even addresses, please bring salad; odd addresses, please bring dessert*).

The party will be in the Atrium at the Frazer Center, who has graciously hosted our Lake Claire monthly meetings and get-togethers again all year. In addition to neighbors' contributions and lasagnas, there will be mac & cheese for the kids, lemonade, and wine.

So that we know how much food to get, please **RSVP to 404-981-5616 or @ [www.lakeclaire.org/rsvp](http://www.lakeclaire.org/rsvp)**. Also, please note that the Ridgewood gate to the Frazer Center will probably be closed

### Neighborhood History:

## Early Land Ownership and Street Names in the Lake Claire Area

After the Trail of Tears and after the Europeans claimed ownership, the original Henry County was created, in 1821. Henry County was later subdivided into several counties, one of which was Dekalb (1822, which included what became the original Fulton County). By 1853, Atlanta's prominence as an emerging city had been established, and the need for a new County seat (which was within a day's ride by horseback for a larger percentage of the population) became apparent. At that time, Dekalb was divided into two parts, mainly following the survey boundary between the

### Education Options

## Homeschooling Our Children in Lake Claire

by Lucy Nielsen



*Homeschoolers at the Ice Rink*

If you were to have asked me thirteen years ago if I would be a homeschooling mother of three I would've said you're out of your mind. I had friends who homeschooled, and literally I told them "that's great

for you, but I'd never do that!" One of the things I've learned over the years is never to say never. I didn't think much about homeschooling until my son Myles was about two years old. I realized then, as many of you know now, that he was quite different. The thought of sending him to school didn't seem to make much sense, as he was learning as we were going along in our day-to-day operations. Then I joined a homeschooling group in Massachusetts, even before I real-

*Home Schooling cont. on p. 11*

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14th and 15th land Districts. The west side of Moreland Avenue (then and now) is in the 14th District, Fulton County, while the east side is in the 15th district, Dekalb County.

The earliest European surveying of Georgia counties created land Districts, each one typically being 81 square miles and containing 256 Landlots. An entire Landlot is approximately 202.5 acres. Portions of six different Landlots contribute to the makeup of Lake Claire. Tracing the ownership history of all of the six Landlots which comprise Lake Claire is difficult.

*History cont. on p. 7*

## Lake Claire Officers for 2013

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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 the Clarion Staff.

# December: Mark Your Calendars

December is the month with the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the longest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere. December starts on the same day of the week as September every year and ends on the same day as April every year. December's birthstone is the blue turquoise or zircon, as well as tanzanite. December is "Hi, Neighbor" month, as well as Read-a-New-Book month; of special interest to some might be that if a girl raps at a henhouse door on Christmas Eve, and a rooster crows, she will marry within the year.

**1** Land Trust: Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale, Lake Claire Co-housing Common House, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Features pottery, knitting, jewelry and other goodies by neighbors. AND the drum circle, from dark until midnight. Please walk, bike, or carpool.

**1 - 23** "The Gifts of the Magi," at Theatrical Outfit, based on the O'Henry story. Info: <http://www.theatricaloutfit.org/shows/the-gifts-of-the-magi>; and Dec. 1-30, "The Santaland Diaries" at the Horizon, by David Sedaris – if you haven't seen this, you MUST - <http://www.horizontheatre.com>

**1 - 6** – Fernbank Winter Wonderland Traditions Around the World (see below article).

**2** Sunday, Dec. 2 and 16 (the day after each drum circle) – "Keep the Trust" Land Trust Volunteer Work Day, 3:00-6:00 pm. Volunteers get free pizza and a drum circle pass.

**7 - 30** "A Year With Frog and Toad," Synchronicity Theatre at 14th Street Playhouse, named "best children's show" in 2005, smart heart-warming musical for kids and fun-loving grownups.

**8** Inman Middle School PTA sponsors "Inman Frosty 5K." See below article for details.

**8 - 30** "Madeline's Christmas" at the Horizon Theatre. <http://www.horizontheatre.com/>

**9** 28th Annual Inman Park Auction – 3 to 7 p.m., Trolley Barn. See article below for details.

**13** Lake Claire Holiday Party – see article on Page 1 for details. 2nd not 3rd Thursday this month!

**15** Land Trust drum circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike, or carpool.

**16** Lake Claire Community Land Trust (the day after each drum circle) "Keep the Trust" Land Trust Volunteer Work Day, 3:00-6:00 pm. Volunteers get free pizza and a drum circle pass.

**21** won't be the end of the world. It will, however, be another Winter solstice.

Send calendar items for JAN 2013 by DEC 15 to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)

# The 28th Annual Inman Park Auction to Be Held Dec 9

by Angie Vaughn (Lake Claire resident)

An intown Atlanta tradition, the Inman Park Auction is part party, part fundraiser, part reunion and part shopping experience. It is presented by Thrive Homes and benefits the **Inman Park Cooperative Preschool**.

The live and silent auction will take place from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Trolley Barn in Inman Park, 963 Edgewood Avenue. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on amazing items and services, including:

- An in-home dinner for eight prepared by Top Chef winner and local restaurateur, Richard Blais
- Ten days at a vacation home in Provence, France
- An original painting by a Zoo Atlanta elephant
- Hundreds of dollars in gift certificates to local retailers and restaurants

Admission to the auction is FREE and open to the public. Auction proceeds support the preschool's ongoing efforts to provide a healthy and sustainable learning environment and to maintain the school's award-winning outdoor classroom. For more details, visit [ipcp.org](http://ipcp.org).

# Inman Middle School Frosty 5K on December 8

by Boyd Baker

As noted last month, the Inman Middle School PTA hosts the Frosty 5K Race on December 8, to benefit our middle school. Come on, families, let's walk, stroll, and enjoy activity while helping our students and teachers. Details can be found at [www.InmanFrosty5K.com](http://www.InmanFrosty5K.com) or at [www.Active.com](http://www.Active.com)

# Fernbank: Winter Wonderland Traditions Around the World

Now through January 6, celebrate holidays, traditions, and cultures in this festive exhibition. Fernbank's 3rd annual Winter Wonderland features dozens of cultural displays decorated in celebration of holidays and traditions observed around the world. Traditional holiday trees are used as a canvas for painting the holiday season with the colors, imagery and symbols unique to world cultures, holidays and traditions enjoyed throughout the year.

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# Lake Claire Talent

Lake Claire is chock-full of talent of all kinds. We have great writers, poets, artists, musicians, cooks, gardeners, you name it. From Boyd Baker's chili to Stephen Wing's poetry...we are very lucky in this neighborhood. Write to the Clarion with others in our neighborhood whom we've not featured, yet.

## The Best Street in Atlanta? Leonardo, of course

by Boyd Baker

Some would say it's boasting. Others say it ain't boasting if it's true. Either way, I feel pretty secure in say-

Time has had its way with our neighborhood, and some streets have fared better than others. For Leon-



ing we have one of the best streets in Atlanta, maybe the U.S., with **Leonardo Avenue**.

Having been here nine years, plus a few on Clifton years ago, I've seen quite a bit of change in Lake Claire and Candler Park. What was a sleepy little enclave of quiet activity and virtually no children just a few years ago has burst at the seams with a renewed business corner, tiny tots, families, and tons of activity. This is not your father's Lake Claire, or in case my stepfather's.

You see, I live in the house that my stepgrandmother, Billie Dale, built back in the early 40s. It's a 2/1 that has stood the test of time and 8 years of wear and tear by myself, a wife, two kids, a dog, and cat. Back when the house was built, the neighborhood was quite sparse. Not all of the lots on our street had houses on them. There wasn't the same rush to fill every lot in those days. Some had awkward geographic features that were deemed too challenging. The Marlbrook hill at the end of our street, that descends dangerously to Harold Avenue, ended right there, as my stepfather has told me. The uphill going to Hardendorf was just woods.

ardo, it has been very good. Though now all the lots are filled with a mixture of "grandmother homes," as I call them, and renovations of many hues, the residents continue to be the heart of what makes Leonardo unique.

When we first moved onto the street we had two of the three youngsters among the 30 or so homes. There were a few middle/high schoolers, but not many younger kids or newer families. Many of our neighbors were known only by his or her address or house color. Even though I met a few of the folks who'd spent many years on the street, there was definitely a sense that it had seen its day. I found in my attic an old street directory Billie had kept. It was a few years old, but it gave me a name to put with the addresses I passed daily on walks with my kids. It gave me an idea to restart the directory and meet my neighbors.

Simple enough I thought. I'd print some letters asking for folks to forward info, and I'd compile everything so that we could call upon each other if there was ever a need. Figured folks might want to let neighbors know if they were going out of town or they'd lost a dog or something. How did

*Leonardo cont. on p. 5*

## Lost Leaf by Stephen Wing

She'll never drive  
out that road again, she says  
even to visit her old neighbors  
The land might be different now,  
new fruit trees, new  
fences, but sleeping  
in it everywhere are her hands  
As if each thrust of the spade  
in the garden took root, each beat  
of her pulse pushed through  
the dry stones in the creekbed  
from a buried heart  
Records in the county courthouse  
save her signature like  
a flattened October leaf  
through the winters  
But the land is the same  
and her memories lie cramped  
in the spring buds, waiting,  
her hunger to be there  
hums like the yellowjacket nest  
under the rafters of the barn

*Stephen Wing is the author of a comic novel, Free Ralph!, two books of poetry, and a series of chapbooks. His bumper stickers are on sale at Donna Van Gogh's under the name Gaia-Love Graffiti. He lives with Dawn Aura on Arizona Avenue and serves as Secretary of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. Visit him at [StephenWing.com](http://StephenWing.com) to read more of his writings or to purchase his work.*



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To Help You Keep an Eye on the Crime and the Time:

## Lake Claire Safety Report 39-42, compiled from APD Reports

At holiday time, crime often rises. Please be aware of your surroundings when going in and out of houses and businesses, and getting in and out of your cars. Remember: the majority of crimes are crimes of opportunity. Take notice of unfamiliar trucks and cars. Take down tag numbers. Tell neighbors when you go out of town. If anything appears to be happening that is unusual, call 911. Let's watch out for each other. And have happy—and safe—holidays.

### Auto Theft

300 block Sutherland Pl	10/8-9/12	19:00-09:45
Vehicle, parked in driveway, was previously broken into and a spare key may have been taken.		
2000 block DeKalb Ave	10/12/12	00:01-14:15
Two scooters stolen from parking lot		
200 block Arizona Ave	10/13-34/12	23:30-10:15
Vehicle stolen overnight		

### Residential Burglary

200 block Sutherland Pl	10/10/12	08:00-16:30
Damaged: window		
Prints recovered		
500 block Lakeshore Dr	10/24/12	08:30-11:30
Alarm left		
unarmed for cleaning person		
Damage: window pried		
Taken: computer and iPad, TVs, watches, Wifi device		

### Theft from Auto

1900 block Howard Cir	9/23-24/12	17:00-00:01
Damage: none, unlocked car		
Prints recovered		
300 block Connecticut Ave	9/25-26/12	17:00-10:30
Damage: window broken		
Taken: power tools		
Prints recovered		
1900 block McLendon Ave	9/30/12	20:00-21:30
Damage: window broken		
Taken: undisclosed items		
Prints recovered		
600 block Hardendorf Ave	10/1-2/12	23:00-08:56
Damage: window broken		
Taken: undisclosed items		
500 block Clifton Rd	10/6-7/12	18:00-12:15
Prints recovered		
Damage: windows broken out on multiple vehicles		
Taken: undisclosed items		
2000 block Palifox Dr	10/10/12	22:30-23:13
Damage: window broken		
Taken: purse (later recovered down the street) and other items		
200 block Connecticut Ave	10/13-14/12	23:00-01:00
Prints recovered		
Damage: front passenger window broken		
Taken: purse		
200 block Hampton Terr	10/23/12	05:25-06:25
Damage: not listed		
Taken: GPS, purse (later found down the street and returned)		

## Home (Security) for the Holidays

by Duncan Cottrell

Before the hustle and bustle of parties, pageants, and presents, consider these simple tips to keep your holiday dreams from becoming a nightmare. The temptation is to place the Christmas tree in the front window to be enjoyed by passersby. Especially if there are wrapped gifts beneath that tree, it is a lure for a ne'er-do-well to smash the window and grab the packages. Consider closing the window treatments, or putting the tree away from a large window. Burglars look for an easy entry with good escape routes, and they prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows. Instead of running extension cords through a window, install an exterior outlet for your holiday lights.

Outdoor lights burning 24 hours a day, piled up newspapers, and advertising flyers hanging on the door knob are clues that you're away. Use a light timer, and ask a neighbor to keep the front of your home clean of papers and debris. And install motion sensors. Burglars hate being seen. Burglars know to look for the hidden door key near the front entrance. Don't hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above door ledges. Give the spare key to a trusted neighbor.

Don't post your family name on your mailbox or on your house. A burglar can call directory assistance while parked in front of your home to get your telephone number and phone to confirm that you are away. *"You've reached the Wilsons'. We're away skiing for the Christmas holidays! Please leave a message."* Music to a burglar's ears. Likewise, don't post your travel plans on Facebook or other social media. It would be nice if only our friends had access to our Timeline; alas, that is not the case. One police chief cautions not to post about a shopping excursion until after you get home, or else it's apparent that the house is not occupied.

After opening gifts, break down the boxes and turn the print to the inside, so that your recycling does not tell all about your new electronics. And often, after a lucrative burglary, the offender may return to steal the new replacement products.

Lastly, fortify your home. Steel doorway reinforcing, solid core doors, heavy duty locks, and security devices on all accessible sliding windows makes your home unattractive to a burglar. Contact me, Duncan Cottrell, The Entry Enforcer, at 404-289-6960 for a free home security assessment.

*Duncan Cottrell owns and operates The Entry Enforcer, and he advertises in the Clarion.*

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## Consider Thoughtful Giving

In what is sometimes called the “giving season,” remember that your dollar goes a long way to support projects right here at home. Consider neighborhood service charities such as: Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (see article below) and The Frazer Center. And don’t forget the local causes like the Lake Claire Land Trust, and of course, the Lake Claire Neighborhood Association, which brings you this newspaper -- and supports green space projects and fun neighborhood activities and other good causes in the neighborhood all year. Get contact information for these neighborhood organizations at [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org)

## Holiday Season at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

One of Lake Claire’s treasures is Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, on the corner of McLendon and Connecticut Avenues. Clifton Sanctuary Ministries is a nonprofit organization that provides shelter and nurture to men seeking to overcome homelessness. Open 365 days a year, the Clifton Sanctuary is the oldest house-of-worship shelter operating in Atlanta. Many in Lake Claire are involved with Clifton or have been in the past, serving on the board of directors, as volunteers, and contributors. If you don’t have time to volunteer, there are ways you could help through CSM’s wish list.

**Business Attire.** Guests routinely need gently used business attire for interviews, etc. Suits, dress shirts, dress slacks, good dress shoes, dress socks, neckties. Guests especially need these items in larger sizes. Sizes for shirts include XL, XXL, XXXL. Sizes 42 through 52 long suits. As well as shoes that range from size 9 through 14 wide. **Thermal Undergarments:** As the temperature outside continues to drop, please don’t forget that a lot of the guys need thermal undergarments, including long johns for the quests to wear underneath their clothes. Sizes for long sleeve shirts and pants include men’s XL, XXL, and XXXL.

**Other Miscellaneous Items** they could use: Laundry Detergent, Dish Detergent, Shower Shoes (flip flops), Shaving Cream, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Brown Paper Lunch Bags, C-Fold Towels, Deodorant, Food Service Gloves, Paper Napkins, Foam Paper Plates, Jelly, Cereal. For more information please see <http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com>.

The holiday season begins early at CSM. From mid November through New Year’s Day, many churches, individ-

uals, volunteers and supporters go the extra mile to make the season special for the men who call Clifton home. But the best of traditions in the guests’ view is when they give back to the community. Throughout the year, the men participate in activities in Lake Claire and in nearby Candler Park. Such activities enable the men to be part of the neighborhoods, not just passing through them. At this time of year, the men of Clifton hold three special nights of Christmas Caroling. Hot chocolate, apple cider, cookies and other refreshments are served afterwards. No experience or talent is necessary; all are welcome. This is a very special look at the meaning of Christmas through the eyes of Clifton’s guests. Be on the lookout for the dates of this year’s caroling on the Lake Claire website and on the marquis at the corner of McLendon and Connecticut Avenues.

### *Leonardo cont. from p. 3*

that go, you say? Like a lead zeppelin. I could count on my hands the number of folks who responded at all. Our street had learned to live in isolation for the most part, or they were just too busy with their lives to be interested in building community locally.

Well, year after year a home turned over here, one got renovated there, and all of a sudden there were other young families on the street. One would move away, and another would fill its spot. Slowly, the more social ones on our street would reach out to new neighbors and introduce ourselves and start to build relationships. I gave the directory another shot, really just added on to the partial one I had, and now we’re only shy maybe 3 residents among 30. That’s quite a turnaround.

With the youthful influx came a desire to socialize more. A new child would spur covered dishes being delivered to your home. Pop-up afternoon happy hours started happening as folks went outside with their kids after work. For a couple of years a few families would get together to have a Tamalada, tamale-making

Each year we try to make time to gather for evening snacks and cocktails before the holiday crush gets too great. Where once there were 8 or 10 folks quietly chatting, it is now a cacophony of kids excited by the season, being held and chased by multi-tasking (eating, drinking, talking) parents. We cap the event off



2012 Chilinaldo Winner Boyd Baker, 2nd Place Justin Miller, 3rd Place Jason Bliss, & Sides winner Wendy Baker

party, as the work is made easier with multiple hands, and we’d enjoy ethnic cuisine in a whole new way. That led to the creation of **Chilinaldo**, a fall competition for bragging rights of the best chili and best side on the street. Originally intended as a “playoff” to see what chili would be entered by the street in Cabbagetown’s Chomp & Stomp (we had a street entry for 3 years), it has just grown as a great gathering of neighbors, family, and friends - with some fierce competition.

With the addition of new families and kids also came a renewed frenzy of light around the Christmas holidays. Where once just a few tasteful white lights would glow, there is now a blaze of multi-colored, 3-D, and robotic activity. We haven’t reached the level where strangers make Leonardo a destination for oohs and ahhs, but we’re working on it.

with a walk down our street and the ritualistic pause in front of each house to see the official “lighting.” Everyone walks down the street with great excitement to see how folks have already lit up their homes or are ready to “flip the switch.” Thus the name of our annual event is called the **Lighting of Leonardo**.

Where we once felt as if on an island within a street within Lake Claire, we are now truly part of a community who shares a cup of sugar, looks out for each other’s kids, celebrates special events, helps when help is needed, and does all the things you thought you’d do when you grew up and had a family.

Our little Leonardo Avenue has gone from roughly 3 young kids nine years ago to over 30 now and still counting. We’ve got a few years of friendly competition, holiday celebrations, and who knows what else ahead of us on the best street in Atlanta.

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# Annual Elections and November Meeting

Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) recently held our annual election of officers for the Executive Committee, at the November monthly meeting, Thursday, November 16. One hundred and eighty one people attended (yes, 181!), filling the Rose Room at the Frazer Center, with standing-room only. It is obvious that Lake Claire neighbors, in-

cluder Park, Inman Park, and the Olmstead Parks. A few years later he assisted in the formation of the current Lake Claire Neighbors Association (LCN). LCN originally met in the Lake Claire Baptist Church on McLendon, which is now a beautiful condominium. When a new location was needed, Joe arranged for the meeting site at the Frazer

Deal to serve on the Warm Springs Advisory Committee -- a state commission created in 1942 to preserve FDR's legacy in Georgia.

**Kathy Evans**, who will begin serving as VP Fun(d)raising, first lived in Lake Claire in 1987 and returned to the neighborhood after school and work took her family to Austin, TX, and Chicago. She had a "sabbatical" from the Executive Committee last year, but over the past 10 years or so, she has served terms as VP of Zoning, VP of Planning, VP Environment, and President of Lake Claire Neighbors. She was a co-founder of Friends of the Frazer Center Forest and coordinator of the Native Waters Watershed Mural on DeKalb Avenue.

**Kathie Ryan** has lived in her family home on Harold Avenue for most of her life. This year she served as LCN's VP for Public Safety and will continue in this position for 2013. She has been a Clarion deliverer for many years, is a block captain, and participated in the all-volunteer LCN security patrol many moons ago. She and her dog, Mr. Darcy, are often out walking the streets of LC, and she loves the Land Trust, where she began growing vegetables in earnest a couple of years ago.

surer and VP Finance, first came to Lake Claire in 1986, where he lived on Gordon Avenue for 11 years before moving to Candler Park in 1997. He returned to Lake Claire in 2010 with his artist wife Pen. Andrew recently retired after 50 years in international business, running operations for scientific companies in the US, UK, Austria, Germany, and China. He still runs his own technical translation service. He has served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including the Atlanta Track Club and the Atlanta Association of Interpreters and Translators, and he currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Georgia District Export Council.

**James Ezeilo** is our new VP Environment. Relatively new to Lake Claire, he and his family moved into the neighborhood in early 2012. Prior to moving onto Hardendorf, they lived in Inman Park for several years. James has always been a champion of land conservation. He and his wife co-founded the Greening Youth Foundation (GYF), an environmental nonprofit contracted with federal agencies to connect diverse candidates to public land management careers. James served as CFO for GYF for three years. He



cluding many who normally do not have time to attend our meetings, care deeply about the neighborhood and its good management. The Nominating Committee / Executive Committee presented a slate of candidates that was a combination of officers interested in continuing in their roles and new volunteers. As no opposing candidates came forward from the floor, we voted on this slate, and we elected each of the nominees unanimously by acclamation.

## Our 2013 Executive Committee

Our new LCN Executive Committee is comprised of a diverse group. They range from one who grew up in her house in Lake Claire, to others who moved here in the 1970s-1990s, to one who just moved here early this year. They are as follows:

New LCN President, **Joe Agee**, has lived in Lake Claire on Harold Avenue since 1973. In the early 1980s, he got involved in local politics with CAUTION (Citizens Against Unnecessary Thoroughfares in Older Neighborhoods), a coalition of neighborhoods opposing the proposed 4-lane highway to go through Can-

Center, where the neighborhood has met ever since. Recently, Joe has reconnected with the Land Trust and is becoming more aware of what a valuable resource it is for Lake Claire. He is semi-retired from Morehouse College, where he served as chair of the Language Department for 30 years.

**Carol Holliday**, VP Planning, has lived in Lake Claire for 35 years. She has most recently served as LCN's VP of Planning and is continuing in that role for 2013. In an earlier period, she served on the LCN Executive Committee and was responsible for distributing a monthly flyer. In addition, Carol represented LCN for 20 years on the CAUTION Executive Board, ending as Co-President of CAUTION in the year that organization transitioned into the Freedom Park Conservancy.

**Dan White**, our VP Zoning, has lived in Lake Claire since 1987 and has served as President of LCN from 2003 to 2006 and as VP Zoning since 2007. Dan has served on the Tree Conservation Commission of the City of Atlanta since 2005 and as its co-chair since 2006. Dan has also recently been appointed by Governor Nathan



Carol Holliday presents gift to Peg Ziegler

**Nancy Dorsner**, VP Communications, has lived in Lake Claire for 16 years. She has served as Communications VP for the past year, and she will continue for this year. She lives on Marlbrook with her husband and 7-year old son. She is an artist and web designer.

**Andrew Sherwood**, Treas-

currently works with The Nature Conservancy as the organization's Senior Field Recruiter. He feels extremely fortunate to have a position that allows him to talk with new people every day about the incredible work the Conservancy is doing around the world. His perpetual goal is to bring more people onboard

that share a passion and excitement for conservation and sustainability. In a previous life, James was as Managing Partner for a real estate law firm in the Northeast. He retired from the practice of law and moved to Georgia with his wife, two sons and two boxers. James looks forward to working with the residents of LC and the surrounding communities to increase the use and connectivity of our beautiful green spaces.

**Christiane French** has just been appointed to the position of Public Liaison. In that role, she will work closely with the President as well as the Executive Committee. Christiane moved into Lake Claire in August 2003, coming from work as the Medical Officer for the Peace Corps in Benin, West Africa. She was struck by how lovely and cool the temperature was here in August! They chose their house in part

ta Then and Now, by Michael Rose, presented to Peg from the Executive Committee of 2012. During Peg's tenure, Lake Claire had many challenges, many successful initiatives – and many wonderful celebrations. Peg gently ushered us through routine as well as contentious issues, with her eye on the target of building community. Her legacy includes conceiving of and recruiting the volunteers for the Welcome Committee, Vision Committee, and the Public Liaison position. She brought in a parliamentarian (Kathrine Arrington) to assist in interpretation of bylaws and rules of order in the planning and conducting of meetings. Under her leadership, LCN instigated the new honor code for all officers. In addition to being a wonderful Lake Claire Neighbor, Peg is a wonderful Lake Claire neighbor with a small case 'n' – she will

timated the time spent on his or her duties. Kathie Ryan told us about the December 13 holiday dinner (see this Clarion, Page 1). Valencia Hudson, security liaison from Councilwoman Archibong's office, gave a brief report, as did Atlanta Police Department Officer Moore. Officer Moore told people to watch for glass on the street in areas where one parks in public places, for signs of a previous car break-in. He pointed out not to leave things in cars at home or in public places. Recent arrests of several juveniles have taken place, he noted. He emphasized to call 911 if one has any car break-in attempt.

Executive Committee appointees spoke: Beth Krebs spoke in place of the fundraising VPs and about the Halloween party, and Beth Damon spoke briefly about the Clarion. Peg re-introduced our Webmaster, Will Burke; the Welcoming Committee Chair, Sara Rockaway; and Public Liaison, Christiane French. There was a brief presentation from the outgoing Executive Committee to Peg in appreciation of her service, including a round of unanimous applause from the 181 attendees.

After the election, Parliamentarian Kathrine Arrington led the newly elected officers in taking the Oath of Office. The meeting ended with an interesting Powerpoint presentation by Dennis McCarthy on the 2012 Park Pride –11th Annual --Parks and Greenspace Conference.

#### *History cont. from p. 1*

However, some information is available at the Dekalb Historical Society and is noted here.

Between 1822 and 1851, names associated with the six different Landlots during different periods include Caty Bailey (1822), James Hagerdy (?), William Fain sold to Joseph Pitts (1843), and Frederick Foster sold to Andrew Reid (1850). A noteworthy sale included the east half of Landlot 239 from Joseph Pitts to Cabel McLendon in 1862 (the eastern north-south boundary of 239 runs between Harold and Leonardo). Mr. McLendon had already acquired a large portion of Landlot 210, immediately south of 239. So, at the time, he became one of only two landowners of the current Lake Claire. A "McLindon" homestead near the intersec-

tion of Clifton and Dekalb Avenue appears on a pre-Civil War Union Army strategic map. Eventually, parcels owned by Cabel McLendon are transferred to Lula Mell (in the vicinity of Mell Avenue in Candler Park).

Also noteworthy is the record of James Kirkpatrick, who had acquired Landlots 211, 212, 238, 237, one half of 243, and 70 acres of 244 (over 1000 total acres) during a period of time before his death in 1851. Except for Cabel McLendon's parcel, Kirkpatrick owned all of the land in Lake Claire and more. By 1860, all of his land had been transferred to Kirkpatrick male heirs. Another Civil War battle map shows a Kirkpatrick residence in the vicinity of the Decatur Wagon Road (Dekalb Avenue) and Durand Mill Road (Ridgecrest).

The Kirkpatrick heirs eventually sold 86.5 acres of land to General John Brown Gordon in 1871, which became his Atlanta estate "Sutherland." (See more details in "Blast From the Past," in the August 2012 Clarion.) J.B. Gordon had a brother who had married "a McLendon of Atlanta," so there may be some familial connection which resulted in Gordon's selection of a location so close to the McLendon homestead. Kirkpatricks also sold land to the East Atlanta Land Company, which became the eastern portion of the Olmsted Parks. They also sold property to the Brooks family (Brooks Avenue, in Candler Park), part of which was subdivided and eventually became a land donation by Asa Candler in 1925 for use as the park "Candler Park." They sold land to Colonel Howard in the vicinity of Howard Circle (the former Lt. Governor of Georgia, Pierre Howard, is a direct descendant of Colonel Howard).

Some history of other street names is available. There is Dekalb Avenue circa early 1900s -- the original Decatur Wagon Road/Atlanta Road originally meandered across the Georgia Railroad tracks. La France Street is part of the original Wagon Road. Sutherland Terrace: (General Gordon's wife, Fanny Rebecca Haralson Gordon, had a maternal grandmother whose surname was Sutherland). Hampton Terrace: this was most likely named in memory of the very close and

*History cont. on p. 11*



*Lake Claire Officers taking the Oath of Office - Photo by Susan Rutherford*

because of the exquisite deep green woodlands of the Frazer forest. Christiane has been a PA for 32 years, with the last 10 years in Emergency Medicine at Emory Midtown Emergency Department. Her volunteer activities are centered in her strong belief that community relations and connection to our human and physical environment are integral in creating a healthy vibrant life. She is pleased to be able to serve and strengthen our neighborhood's presence and rapport within the larger context of Atlanta and other in-town neighborhoods in this newly created position.

#### **Big Thank You to Peg Ziegler**

Our just-former LCN President Peg Ziegler relinquishes her post after a successful year. At the end of Thursday night's meeting, LCN expressed its appreciation to Peg with a gift of the book, Atlan-

be missed in the post of LCN President, but we will surely continue to benefit from her volunteer efforts in the community.

Much appreciation from the neighborhood to the outgoing Executive Committee of LCN, including those who resigned earlier in the year: Thank you, Cara Stevens, Mary Williams, Alyson McCarthy, and Robby Handley, as well as all the other unnamed contributors to the work of the Lake Claire neighborhood. We hope many more people will bring your ideas and get involved in 2013.

#### **Minutes of the November 16 Meeting**

In addition to the election of officers, other business Thursday night included brief reports from the President and the Vice Presidents. Each explained his or her role and es-



# Expansion of City's Curbside Recycling

The City of Atlanta is pleased to announce the expansion the City's Residential Curbside Recycling Program! Customers no longer need to request the large blue recycling carts. You probably just received a 96-gallon recycling cart, as they were distributed within the last month to all residential customers who did not already have them. The new carts replace residents' current 18-gallon recycling bins, allowing for more recyclables to be collected. About 30,000 residents now have the new blue carts.

With the delivery of the new carts, the City is launching a public education campaign to support efforts to improve recycling in the City: *Cartlanta: Recycling. Get Into It.* Education activities have included direct marketing around the rollout of the new carts to residents, an enhanced Web and social media presence, advertising, public relations, and grassroots, community-level outreach.

Currently, city of Atlanta residents generate 96,000 tons of trash annually, which costs the city \$7 million a year to dispose of in landfills. City of Atlanta residents recycle only 12,000 tons annually, which leaves significant room for improvement. In addition to the environmental benefits, diverting recyclables from landfills produces revenue

for the City at a rate of \$30 per ton. Recycling is an important step toward the City's goals towards becoming a greener place to live, work, and play. The new large capacity recycling carts make it easier for residents to recycle more. Note: If you already had a relatively new recycling bin, the city will pick up your new blue bin; you may call 404 330 6333. It was a very brief phone call, and they will pick it up within 10 days.

## Make it a Greener 2013: Let's TREEcycle

An important recycling effort involves your living Christmas tree after the Christmas holiday. With millions of real Christmas trees sold in the United States every year, Christmas tree recycling is an important way to give a renewable, recyclable resource back to the environment.

Atlanta residents have two ways of recycling their Christmas trees after the holidays:

- Put your Christmas tree at the curb, it will be collected and recycled into mulch through the City's Yard Trimings Composting Program.

- Most Home Depot locations participate in tree recycling. Last year, in exchange for bringing your tree to be recycled, a person could take

home a free load of mulch and/or a tree seedling to plant. As of Clarion publication, detailed information wasn't available, so please phone the Home Depot before taking in your tree. Last year each of these Home Depots participated: Home Depot at 650 Ponce De Leon Avenue, NE, and Home Depot at 815 Sidney Marcus Boulevard, NE

## Hints on Having a Green House

by David Damon

Improving attic ventilation cools your attic space and possibly your living space as well. The resulting lower temperatures protect the life of your roof shingles. According to the Southface Energy Institute, "a well planned attic ventilation system has two components: exhaust and intake, each with an important purpose." Many of our homes were designed to accomplish these tasks solely through our end gable vents and leave undesirably hot attic temperatures. Later home design often increased air flow by adding either a ridge vent (an intake slot running along the roof ridge) or a powered exhaust system.

On many homes better attic ventilation reduces the load on your air conditioning system.

To work properly, either system must contain a matching amount of intake ventilation area, best drawing from a low point. A powered exhaust system moves the most air and is best in many circumstances. Ridge vents, a passive system, work best with continuous soffit vents (more often found on homes built after the 1980s) so that the air flows evenly, cooling your shingles. Ridge vents without adequate intake can act as both intake and exhaust, resulting in very poor airflow and moisture.

Many of our homes would benefit from an improved ventilation system. A good roofing contractor can help with these important mechanical design considerations when you invest in a new roofing system.


*David Damon owns and operates First Rate Siding and Roofing Specialist and he advertises in the Clarion.*

## Layout Artist for the Clarion



Cindy Zarrilli has graciously volunteered to be our new layout artist. This issue she has shadowed Lore Ruttan. Cindy was a graphic designer for CNN for twenty years. She is excited to join the Clarion team.



There is no way to thank Lore Ruttan for her countless volunteer hours working on the Clarion since she started in September 2011. The Clarion staff and the Officers of Lake Claire Neighbors thank Lore for her fantastic work and her service to the neighborhood. Luckily, we can still continue to enjoy her artistic talents: the occasional Clarion banner art; the Honeybees that many have searched for and are somewhere in this issue, too; and last but not least, her bass playing with the band Shed. Plus, she has kindly volunteered to keep working on the Clarion until Cindy feels comfortable taking over....THANKS, LORE.



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# Gardening December into January

By Elizabeth Knowlton

One day years ago a librarian was visiting my house, looked around the living room, and remarked, a trifle critically, "This room has more gardening books in it than most libraries."

That is true. I am not sure whether I love gardening or gardening books more; and in my middle years there occurred a great flowering of gardening books, both reprints of the early classics and new classics written by some of the great giants of late 20th century gardening in England and America. Some of this flowering emerged because of color photography being widely available in books for the first time. It seems incredible now to think that in the 70s most of the photographs in gardening magazines were still in black and white, but that is so. And while I still prefer the dignity that black and white gives to portraits of people, nothing is gained by the myriad shades of green in nature represented by shades of grey.

The best time for Southern gardeners to read gardening books is, of course, in summer when there is little gardening to be done and the temperature is too high to allow for much movement. However, I will take a little space now to remind us of the South's most famous gardener, Elizabeth Lewis Lawrence, born May 27, 1904, in our own Marietta, Georgia. Although she was reared and lived the rest of her life in North Carolina, her gardening books are as relevant to us as if she had remained in the peach state.

Laurence's first garden writing appeared in North Carolina 1930s newspapers as columns of observation and instruction. It was not until 1942 that her first book was published, during World War Two, a time when ornamental gardening was not at the forefront of anyone's mind. *A Southern Garden: a Handbook for the Middle South* makes no mention of Victory Gardens. Divided into long sections labeled "Two Months of Winter," "Spring Comes in February," "An Introduction to Summer," and "The Climax of Fall," the book captures perfectly our particular seasons that so shocked me my first conscious winter in the South (1969, North Carolina). By the time I bought myself a copy (1982), I had been gardening in Georgia for years and was happy the 1967 reprint was still available.

Laurence died in 1985, having published only two other books, *The Little Bulbs: A Tale of Two Gardens* (1957) and *Gardens in Winter* (1961), both illuminating our strongest gardening months, the dead times of Northern climes. However, after her death many gardening admirers determined that her words, scattered through decades of newspapers, not be lost, published at least four collections of these columns, as interesting and useful to the reader as her own books. Finally, in 2004 appeared Emily H. Wilson's biography, *No One Gardens Alone*.

When I first began to talk about this book, someone responded acerbically that everyone gardens alone. The title comes from Lawrence herself. Although she was childfree, a life-long spinster, she wove a web of gardening friendships through relatives, neighbors, and correspondents, both famous gardeners and modest users of state market bulletins (of which ours is almost the only one left), always open to learning from them. Intensely private, she managed through print to lead both native Southerners and new transplants into the delights of our seasons. Every time my *Iris unguicularis* blooms, I think of her.

This was another hard year for gardeners, rain totaling only 36.7" in Lake Claire for the first ten months (average would be 40" or more). Worse, it rained only 12.7" from February through June, just when everything is growing and getting ready for

the hot summer. Despite 7.7" in July, the months continued below average. Although strong downpours do cause erosion, at least they fill reservoirs and natural bodies of water. When the soil is hard and dry, the piddling amounts we got from time to time, practically evaporated in mid-air.

and lovely.

For now, it is winter or soon will be so. My first seed catalog arrived from upstate New York on Nov. 15. Do you remember my pleas last winter that you inventory your seeds, collect seed containers, and save your leaves? The delightful thing about gardening is that there is always a



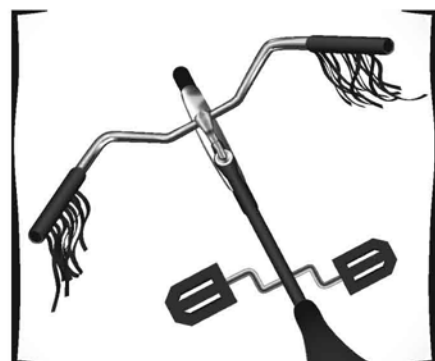
*Iris unguicularis* 'Ginny Hunt'

Plus this, the temperatures in Lake Claire broke 100 degrees for the first time in years (some have disagreed with me, but I can find nothing on the Internet to show such highs in the last five years or more). June 20 – July 1, it ran 100-101 degrees. Fortunately, they did not repeat this summer. Each season seemed early: where February Gold narcissus had opened at the end of February in 2010 and 2011, it bloomed Jan. 10 in 2012; Mar. 16-20 ran over 80 degrees, repeated on and off from March 26 into April. However, this fall has been long

second chance, a chance to do it better this year. Perhaps we can discuss some shrubs and trees as the months pass. So start planning.

You may write to Elizabeth Knowlton, longtime resident of Lake Claire, with your gardening questions or comments at [knowltonew@earthlink.net](mailto:knowltonew@earthlink.net). Have you missed some of Elizabeth's articles this year? Each issue targets gardening hints for the following month. See them on the Lake Claire website at <http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarion/clarion-archives/> - great place to view color pictures of any picture featured in black-and-white, too.

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# Lake Claire Resident Visits Kenyan Orphanage

by Alice Bliss

Gabriella Macxy of Gordon Avenue recently spent a week visiting an orphanage in Kenya. She traveled there with a group of six, led by a woman from Montgomery, Alabama, who was interested in seeing the orphanage. The group flew from Montgomery to Amsterdam, and then to Nairobi, and from there southeast 45 minutes in a small airplane to the orphanage, located near the border.

I sent with them a Christmas card as a gift to the children. It was coated to give a 3D effect, and it showed the three Wise Men mounted on camels and crossing a desert. My thought was that it would be similar to their environment, but nothing could be further from the truth. This photograph of the orphans with the card shows the orphan-

age grounds – lush green and with a well-mowed lawn.

Gabriella plans to return on her vacation next summer to teach the children handicrafts. Meanwhile, she is contributing \$100 per month toward the support of Louise, one of the orphans. After returning from Kenya, Gabriella, a native of Mexico and office manager/translator for the Southern Poverty Law Center in Atlanta, spent a week renewing acquaintance with Brighton Beach, England, where she studied English for two years in preparation for becoming a translator.

*Alice Bliss' recent novel, The Summer of 1935, \$15.00, is available from The Bozart Press, 297 Gordon Avenue, Atlanta, 30307. See more about it in the October Clarion.*

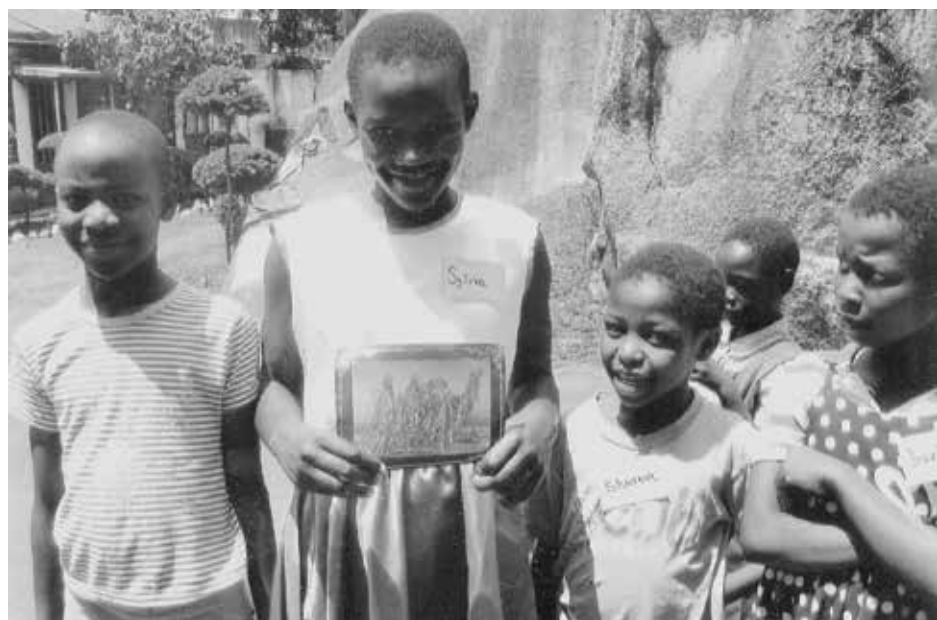


Photo by Gabriella Macxy

## Goldie

by Carol Vanderschaff



"Goldenrod Flowers"

The goldenrod is an American native plant whose bright yellow flowers bloom in summer and fall. Its genus is *Solidago*, from the Latin *soldare* to strengthen, and *solidus* solid., indeed a lofty name for a plant so common that there are over 100 species in its genus. And a plant that's not very choosy about where it grows. It can be found along roads, ditches, and waste areas. If feeling particularly hoity-toity it will grow in meadows and fields.

The goldenrod is an "herbaceous" perennial, believe it or not. It likes well drained soil, but otherwise is not too choosy about where it resides: sun or part shade, dry or wet soils, it's all the same to Goldie. The plant grows to as much as 6 feet tall and propagates by wind driven seeds or spreading underground rhizomes.

It's an important plant for wildlife. The flowers attract butterflies, bees, and other bugs. Seeds are eaten by some birds, such as the Indigo Bunting and Slate-colored Junco, neither permanent residents here. The Bun-

ting migrates through, and the Junco is a winter visitor.

Many folks blame the goldenrod for causing hay fever, but the plant pleads "not guilty" and points the finger at the perp Ragweed, which blooms at the same time, the true cause of all that sneezing. Goldenrod is a good guy/gal, in that it's been used as a medicinal herb for centuries for ailments such as kidney stones, bladder inflammations, colds and flu. Native Americans boiled leaves and used them externally as an antiseptic. Herbalists in the Appalachians made Blue Mountain Tea from the leaves of the goldenrod to relieve exhaustion and fatigue.

So here's to Goldie -- or as some plants like to call themselves, E-Rod. May s/he bloom profusely wherever s/he goes.

*Longtime Lake Claire resident Carol Vanderschaff is volunteer coordinator for Freedom Park's Bird and Butterfly Habitat Garden who has been a frequent contributor to the Clarion. The Garden is a native plant habitat developed by the Atlanta Audubon Society and the Dekalb Master Gardener Association. To volunteer at the Garden e-mail Carol at [cvanderschaff@bellsouth.net](mailto:cvanderschaff@bellsouth.net)*

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**Homeschool cont. from p. 1**

ly felt that homeschooling was going to be a long-term option. In the group, all of the kids were having a good time learning in different ways. Myles fit right in, and as a Mom, that was important to me.

One of the tenets of homeschooling is that each child is an individual and learns in

than the state requirements. That S of course is for Socialization. The media enjoys portraying homeschoolers as sullen prairie-dress wearing rural children lorded over by a jean jumper-wearing Mom. That does exist, but most of the time homeschoolers just socialize with everyone like every other kid does. And, just like in public and private

college. Some children will take accredited programs to get high school diplomas that can be used for college entry. Generally speaking, because homeschooling has become a more popular option, thousands of colleges have no issues with admitting homeschooled children. Some colleges view homeschooled children as natural self-starters who think outside the box. I'll be interested in seeing how the admissions process continues to adapt to the homeschool trend in America.

While homeschooling is not for everyone, I've enjoyed the journey with my kids. Although the lifestyle has its challenges, I wouldn't trade it for the world. If you have questions about homeschooling in the Atlanta area, please feel free to email me at [lucytroymyles@gmail.com](mailto:lucytroymyles@gmail.com)

*Editor's note: Hear from the two elder Nielsen children in past Clarions. Stella Nielsen wrote the Lake Claire Kids' Corner article in March of this year, and Myles Nielsen wrote the Lake Claire Kids' Corner article in April of this year (see <http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarion/clarion-archives/>). Send the Clarion your other educational options and how your children are faring with them.*

**History cont. from p. 7**

enduring friendship between General Gordon and General Wade Hampton of South Carolina. Ivy Place: Mrs. M. Ivy owned several parcels along the east side of the current Ivy Place. Ridgecrest was originally a pre-Civil War road named Durand Mill (because of its route to vicinity where mills were owned by the Durand family at the confluence of Peavine Creek and South Fork of Peachtree Creek, below WAGA Channel 5's studios). Claire Drive: Shirley Claire Massell and Sam Massell, former Atlanta Mayor, were the children of one of the three Massell brothers who were the speculators of Lakeshore Drive and Claire Drive. Lakeshore Drive was the road that passed by "Lake Ponceana" at the intersection of Claire Drive. Eugene Hardendorf, Charles T. Page, and Mr. (?) Harold lend their last names to streets, as did three of Page's daughters: Lula (now Marlbrook), Harriett, and Muriel. Last, Manry Nelms was the land specula-

tor of the Nelms-Adolphus-Arizona blocks.

*Some of this information is from 1990s issues of the Clarion's predecessor "Neighbors." My thanks to Bob Schreiber for research on Lake Claire history. He was Lake Claire's NPU representative and involved in the neighborhood for many years. — Editor*

## Stop Plant Vogtle

by Lynn Nomad

In 2009, Georgia legislators passed a \$2 billion tax that moves money straight from your wallet to your power company's bank-account. This corporate tax or fee, called "Construction Work in Progress," is meant to help pay back the bankers providing billions of dollars to help Georgia Power build the first two nuclear reactors in over 30 years. Wallstreet won't fund the project without customers taking the financial risk. Credit agencies have called the nuclear construction at Plant Vogtle a "risky bet" and give it a 50/50 chance of ever being completed at all let alone within their budget. Georgia Power customers like us are already paying an average of \$45 a year for the project. Whether the project is completed or not, we'll never get our money back.

### People across Georgia are fed up!

Southern Company has charged Georgians \$1.6 billion extra on their bills in order to recover costs for this set of nuclear reactors they're building near Augusta. In November, the company asked the Public Service Commission to approve more money in 'nuclear construction cost recovery' fees that they're allowed to charge us. This fee would stay on our bills until at least 2016 and is already expected to continue to increase in the coming months and years.

Let's tell the Public Service Commission: make Georgia Power pay for their own bad investments! Join local activists and environmental organizations to make public statements, bear witness, and demonstrate. The PSC has a long history of siding with corporations instead of the people they're elected to serve. Enough is enough! You can write to the Georgia Public Service Commission, 244 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30334. For more information, email [stopplantvogtle@gmail.com](mailto:stopplantvogtle@gmail.com), [Courtney@georgiawand.org](mailto:Courtney@georgiawand.org) or call 404-524-5999, or go to <http://stopplantvogtle.com/>.



Homeschool Hiking Group

his or her own unique way. I learned that the hard way when our second child Stella came along. With her straight-ahead book-based learning style, she couldn't be more opposite to Myles. It's too early to tell about our third, Esther, so that's to be determined.

One of the common misconceptions about homeschooling is that there is only one method employed. It is actually the opposite -- there are so many ways to approach it and so many online resources that half the battle is just deciding what to try next. You can set up a traditional "school at home" style environment, use an organic "unschooling" approach, or register for public school sanctioned online courses. And of course you can blend all of these styles as you desire. Regardless of the approach, the parents can steer the curriculum and content to the topics that their children gravitate towards. Showing an interest in animal taxonomy? You can dive into that subject with field trips, videos, books, and camps.

Government oversight varies state by state. In Georgia you need to meet minimum requirements of testing and attendance (it always felt weird to submit attendance forms for homeschooling). But usually parents are more concerned about the "S" word

schools, some kids are quieter while others are more outgoing.

Most homeschoolers interact with kids of all different ages -- anyone from infants to adults. Many people feel that this is a benefit, as the communication skills become easier with intergenerational

relationships. Again, this varies with each child and with each family. Some families don't like to have their kids out of the house as much or socializing too much. Sadly, this seems to be what the press finds most exciting and what is generally publicized; but I don't see that as the biggest chunk of homeschooling families.

Homeschool groups often form co-ops in which there are teachers that cover specialized classes in their areas of interest such as music, drama, and science. These activities are a great change of pace for parents and kids alike. I've enjoyed "outsourcing" science and craft projects to people who love teaching those subjects with passion. Since homeschooling is a "lifestyle" (because it becomes an integral part of your family's day-to-day doings), it can be very difficult to get any quiet time; so a drop-off class is a welcome relief -- as it is in any house.

Higher education tends to come up quite a lot, as homeschooling families wonder if their children can get into





# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young readers to participate. This month's contribution is a poem by **Molly Linstrum**. Molly is nine years old. She has lived in Lake Claire, on Nelms, since her birth in 2003 (parents Julie and Carl have lived in the same house since 1996). Molly has a big sister named Emily, two cats, named Cheeto and Hazel, and two goldfish, named Boo and Splotch. Molly is in 4th grade at Mary Lin.

Hey there, Lake Claire kids – Let's put some of your creativity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). Be creative...we'd love to hear from you. **Next time: tell us what you like about the Winter Holidays.... Or choose any other topic of your choice.**

## GARDEN PLANTS, A SUMMER DREAM

by Molly Linstrum



*Molly at her Junior Girl Scout Camping trip last month at Camp Pine Valley in Meansville. In the picture, she is writing a word of thanks she created to share during one of the group meals – photo by Alicia McGill*

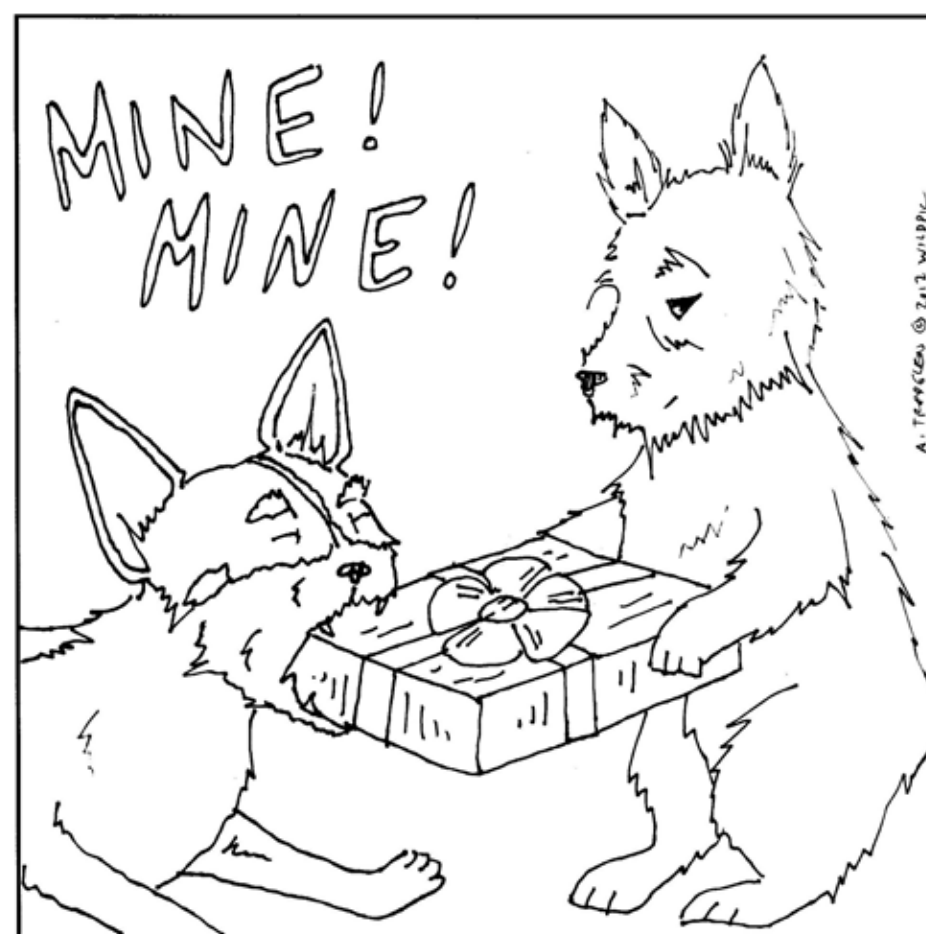
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It's so very keen.

Gardenias, petunias  
All these plants are to  
Mother Nature's glee.

Please, oh please  
Plant a seed  
And for your happiness  
I hope it won't turn into a weed!

KIDS!—FIND 4 HONEY BEES IN THE CLARION THIS MONTH!

## Biscuits and Bellyrubs - Decembertantrum



Anna Trodglan draws our *Biscuits and Bellyrubs* series. A life-time Atlanta resident, Anna grew up on the edge of Lake Claire. She lives 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.

## Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool Enrollment Sessions for 2013-14 School Year

by Alissa Fasman

Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool (OCP) will soon be hosting enrollment sessions for the 2013-2014 school year at its location at Thankful Baptist Church on W. College Avenue in the Oakhurst District of Decatur. Enrollment sessions will be held at the school at the following times: January 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m., January 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m., and January 26, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

OCP is a green school that utilizes a curriculum created to raise (gently) children's awareness of the environment in ways that engage and intrigue them while promoting empathy and respect for all living things. OCP also strives to provide an ethnically, culturally, and economically diverse community that reflects the wider community surrounding the school. It is united in its commitment to parent involvement in children's learning, growth, and development. Classes are offered to children who are between the ages of two and four on September 1, including a dedicated pre-K program for 4 year-olds. To learn more about OCP and the application process please attend an enrollment session and tour of the school. For more information visit: [www.oakhurstcoop.com](http://www.oakhurstcoop.com).