



Lake Claire Looking Beyond the Mayan Apocalypse

Lake Claire Neighbors ended 2012 on two encouraging notes: the November meeting had a turnout of over 180 residents, and attendance for the Annual Christmas Dinner at the Frazer Center was the largest on record. Our goal for 2013 is to capitalize on this increased interest in the LCN and promote the many activities and institutions that make our neighborhood the exceptional place that it is. These include the Frazer Center, the Lake Claire Land Trust, and the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, along with annual events such as the Tour of Homes, the pet and Halloween parades, and movies in Lake Claire Park. Of course, there are ongoing issues about zoning and variance applications that must begin at the neighborhood level, go on to the local NPU, and then to the City of Atlanta for final approval. Other frequent topics are conservation and protection of our green space areas, in particular the Frazer

Forest, the Peavine Watershed, the Land Trust, and Lake Claire Park. There are security matters and various items directly affecting the neighborhood, including the Atlanta Public Schools redistricting process.

As a resident for almost 40 years, I'll fully admit my bias, but I can't think of any other place I'd rather live. Lake Claire has the reputation of being one of the most unique areas of Atlanta, and a vital neighborhood association is crucial to keeping it that way. In this spirit, I want to thank all those persons who have contributed their time and effort over the years to create and cultivate the institutions and events that make us who we are. Ultimately, it is a collective and collaborative effort, and all neighbors should feel free to participate in any way they feel fits their circumstances and particular interests: let's make 2013 the best year yet!

--- Joe Agee, President, LCN

The Lake Claire Annual Holiday Party 2012



From left to right; Kathie Ryan, Christiane French, Joe Agee (LCN President), Sharon Doochin, Bill Fleming, Aliza Fleming, Jacquelyn Howard Fleming

More photos on pages 6 and 7!

Lake Claire Skinnydippers

by Carrie Shevlin

On Monday and Tuesday evenings this Fall a group of Lake Claire residents put on the robin egg blue uniform and successfully transformed into the Lake Claire

With Kent Fisher at the helm, Lake Claire battled against fellow neighborhood teams such as The East Atlanta Pillage, The Grant Park Grave Diggers, Vir-



Dirk Lamb leads off for The Lake Claire Skinnydippers while Ryan Gesser is on deck and Kristy Cenna-Mathieson cheers from the dugout.

Skinnydippers softball team. Taking the field at Coan and East Lake Parks, the Skinnydippers represented our neighborhood in a way that would make any aging softball player proud.

ginia Highlands, and the East Lakers, to end the season with a 6-5 record which gained them a playoff position.

Skinnydippers cont. on p 3

Volunteer Needed for the Clarion!

Jeanne Marie St. Romain, our Advertising Coordinator, is moving soon, and we are looking for a volunteer as soon as possible so that Jeanne can train her replacement. This is a vital position for the neighborhood, since the advertising money is what pays for the Clarion. The ideal person will be organized, detail oriented, and will be familiar with MS Office, utilizing Excel to update monthly spreadsheets, and MS Word to create invoices for advertisers, converting to pdfs. She or he needs to communicate effectively and professionally with our advertisers, keep accurate records of ad payments

Volunteer cont. on p. 11

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THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON
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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.

Banner Artwork from "Hawthorne Winter King" by Lore Ruttan

January: Mark your Calendars

January is National Mentoring Month, National Bath Safety Month, National Oatmeal Month, and National Blood Donor Month. The 2nd week of January is Letter Writing Week (for the whole week, instead of e-mails?)

1-6 Fernbank Winter Wonderland Traditions Around the World. Celebrate holidays, traditions, and cultures in this festive exhibition. Fernbank's 3rd annual Winter Wonderland – through January 6.

3 Fruitcake Toss Day (see below article).

4 Fernbank Museum 6pm, complimentary screening of Flight of the Butterflies (2 adults/up to 4 kids). RSVP by January 2 to deanna.smith@fernbankmuseum.org or 404.929.6373.

5 Trees Atlanta Cemetery Planning 9 a.m.-12p.m. Volunteer Project – info Brian@treesatlanta.org.

5 and 19 – Land Trust drum circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike, or carpool.

6 and 20 (the day after each drum circle) – "Keep the Trust" Volunteer Work Day, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Volunteers get free pizza and a drum circle pass. NOTE: The Land Trust is considering a change in the Work Day schedule. Stay tuned.

10 and 13 and 26 Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool (OCP) hosts 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. See complete information in the Clarion's December 2012 calendar or at www.oakhurstcoop.com.

11 After a sold-out world premiere last summer, The Waffle Palace will return to Horizon Theatre for an open run starting January 11, 2013. Based on real life events at Waffle House restaurants, the hilarious play by Atlanta playwrights Larry Larson and Eddie Levi Lee features an all-star Atlanta cast.

17 and the third Thursday of every month - Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting, The Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m.

18 5:30 p.m. Trees Atlanta free speaker series. Tom Saielli from The American Chestnut Foundation will cover the past, present, and future of the American chestnut that once populated our eastern woodlands. More information on the Trees Atlanta website <http://treesatlanta.org>.

19 Lake Claire & CP residents interested in learning more about the Friends School and Quaker education are invited to George and Courtenay Dusenbury's home, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Head of School will discuss the philosophy of Quaker education and answer questions. Informal event/all families welcome/Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP: dc_dusenbury@yahoo.com or 404-304-3348

19 Saturdays, January 5 and 19 – LT drum circle, dark until Midnight. Walk, bike, or carpool.

20 Land Trust "Keep the Trust" Volunteer Work Day, 2-5 p.m. (See January 6 above.)

Early February

2 Friends of the Decatur Library book sale, 9 am to 3 pm, on the lower level of the Decatur Library. Thousands of gently used fiction, nonfiction and children's books, as well as DVDs and CDs, will be offered for sale at low prices starting at \$.50. Proceeds benefit the programs and collections of the Decatur Library. Admission is free. Donations of gently used books are always welcome at the library front desk.

215 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030

2 Decatur Old House Fair, all day, at the Decatur Courtyard Marriott Conference Center. The Old House

Fair is an all-day showcase of seminars, exhibitors, and hands-on workshops for old-house owners. For information, contact Regina Brewer at regina.brewer@decaturga.com or call (404) 371-8386.

Keeping An Eye on the Crime – And the Time Lake Claire Security Report Weeks 45 - 48

Only one crime reported this month!

Theft from Auto

2000 block Howard Circle	11/5-6/12	18:00-13:00
Volkswagen Jetta parked in driveway		
Taken: medical bag containing instruments	Damage: none described	

January 3: Fruitcake Toss Day

Fruitcake Toss Day is your opportunity finally to throw away the old fruitcake. After the holidays are over, it's time to bring in the new, and toss out the old.

There is no one way to toss out the old fruitcake. Why not make a little fun out of it? Gather up a few friends who also are fortunate enough to have received a fruitcake for the holidays. Go out to a field and see who can toss it the farthest. Caution: do not toss the cake at anyone. This weighty steel-like mass of sugar, flour and fruits could injure someone, if he or she is hit by it. Important Note: Fruitcake Tossing runs counter to the tradition of many people to pass the fruitcake around from one person to the next. In that tradition, the person who is holding the fruitcake on New Year's day must store it away until the next Christmas season.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Christmas Carols

The men of Clifton sang to Lake Claire for three special nights of Christmas Caroling, December 12-14. Several Lake Claire neighbors joined in the fun. CSM served hot chocolate, apple cider,

best thing about being our neighbors in Lake Claire is when they give back to the community. Throughout the year, the men participate in activities in Lake Claire and in nearby Candler



Clifton men sing to Lake Claire

cookies and other refreshments.

On Sunday, December 16, CSM guests presented their Annual Christmas Program. It was a special look at the meaning of Christmas through the eyes of the men of Clifton. After the program, neighborhood visitors joined the men for dinner.

In the CSM guests' view, the

Park. Such activities enable the men to be part of the neighborhoods, not just passing through them. The Christmas Caroling is a very special annual event, and it was such a nice feeling for those of us on streets around CSM to hear their voices raised in song.

Skinnydippers cont. from p. 1

The highlight of the season was the team's amazing 15-12 win

The team has been training hard in the off season, and we are looking forward to coming back strong in the Spring.



Ben James focuses as he pitches with at least a 6-foot arch.

over the previously undefeated Edgewood Ghetto Birds in the first round of the playoffs. "The win over the Ghetto Birds was the highlight of my athletic career," said one Skinnydipper after coming off the field, "It was an amazing game, with complete teamwork and only one pulled hami."

A hard loss to the Grave Diggers in the second round of the playoffs ended the hometown neighborhood team's drive to the championship. But that won't stop them from looking ahead.

"Kent is a demanding coach, and the multiple trips to the cages during the week is really affecting my family life, but it is worth it. I love playing for the Skinnydippers!" Proud members of the Lake Claire Skinnydippers are Kent Fisher, David Stevens, Rob Heller, Adam Masarek, Ryan Gesser, Carrie Shevlin, Megan Anderson, Laura Spriggs, Adam Brookner, Josh D'Agostino, Dee Ryan, Dan Wright, Rob Cole, Ben James, Dirk Lamb, Mike Mikula, Kristy Cenna-Mathieson, Jason Bliss, and David McLean.



Carrie Shevlin typically fails to get on base, but the team allows her to play anyway. Mike Mikula, Dan Wright, and Megan Anderson cheer from the dugout. :)

Want to Advertise in The Clarion?

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Historic Lake Claire

by Allyson McCarthy

Are you considering a renovation to your home? If it dates back to the early 1900s and remains relatively unaltered, you could be eligible for tax credits with the preservation of your home. Most Lake Claire residents know our history. Lake Claire was incorporated into Atlanta around 1910. The Gordons owned an estate from 1871 to 1931, and the now dry artificial Lake Ponceana, off Claire Drive, inspired our neighborhood name Lake Claire. However, there is another layer to our history. A few streets in Lake Claire are part of the Candler Park Historic District.

Back in 1983, the Candler Park Historic District was created with the following boundaries: Moreland, DeKalb, McLendon, Harold Avenue, Mathews Street, and Clifton Terrace. The area is acknowledged for having historic significance in architecture celebrating the following architectural styles: bungalow, craftsman, and late Victorian, all typically constructed around 1900 – 1924 and 1875 – 1899. The Boundary was increased in 2005 to include the Freedom Parkway. The period of interest expands to include Queen Anne and Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

architecture styles dating 1925 – 1949 and 1950 – 1974. Commercial and institutional properties, such as Mary Lin Elementary, joined the overlay.

Property owners and interest groups, such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, are known to coordinate, identify and protect historic sites in the United States. The National Park Service administers the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance to the history of their community, state, or the nation.

What are the results of listing with the National Register?

In addition to honorific recognition, listing in the National Register has the following results for historic properties:

Consideration in planning for Federal, Federally licensed and assisted projects; Eligibility for certain tax provisions – 20% investment tax credit for certified rehabilitation of income producing historic structures such as commercial, industrial or rental

residential buildings; Qualification toward Federal grants for historic preservation for owners with private property listed in the National Register. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is one resource for tracking grants and tax credit opportunities. More information can be found at: <http://www.nps.gov/nr/faq.htm>.

Allyson is a Lake Claire resident since 1997 and an architect.

traffic management at the Ridgewood/McLendon and Ridgewood/Marlbrook intersections from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m. each weekday.

We apologize for the inconvenience and are hopeful that the crew can complete work as expeditiously as possible. They will still begin on Dec. 26, so weather permitting they may complete their effort early. Please contact the Frazer Center with questions (s.breunig@thefrazercenter.org).

Message from the Frazer Center regarding front gate closure:

The recent rains have created a significant delay for the contractor who will perform the bridge retrofit at The Frazer Center. January 11 is now the estimated completion date, which means ALL TRAFFIC will need to access the Center via the Ridgewood gate. We have arranged with Atlanta Police to provide

Sad News

Reba Treon, who lived in her house on McLendon Avenue for 69 years, passed away at age 79 on November 21. She graduated from Bass High School in 1951, received her B.S. from Tift College and her M.S. from Georgia Tech. A passionate educator, she served in the Atlanta School System for many years as principal and as teacher. Read more about her life in the July 2012 Clarion at this link: <http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarionarchives/2012/2012-07.pdf>.

Ave Maria Collins, of Harold Avenue, passed away at age 52, on December 2. Her untimely death followed a long struggle with ovarian cancer.



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Lake Claire Dogs on/off Leashes

by Caron Gordon

On Saturday, December 15 I was at the Lake Claire Park with my toddler. Five other families were in the park with dogs at various times. None of the dogs were leashed. I don't ask people to leash unless they get on the playground. I had to ask three. The first two families leashed their dogs, but acted like I was a jerk for asking. The third man refused, telling me that his dog was nice, and that I should let my child be around dogs to get her used to them. I told him that he was legally obligated to leash everywhere, but if he would stay in the far end of the field it would be no big deal if he didn't. He stayed on the playground arguing with me. I told him he was welcome to change the law, but for now he had to leash his dog. He then said "Why don't I just go and get my rifle?" He was clearly threatening me and my child, in front of my child.

I appreciate that pets are a member of the family. I am grateful to the many families who do leash their dogs and

bear no ill will to the ones that don't; I am sure they are lovely people. Based on my experience, however, unleashed dogs outnumber leashed ones in the park. Neighbors have related many incidents with unleashed dogs, including attacks on other dogs, jumping on or knocking over small children, and menacing families. The frequency and flagrancy of the violations combined with the aggression of a very small number of these owners needs to be addressed by the community.

Understandably, we often say nothing in order to be polite or because we want to avoid conflict with friends and neighbors. This hospitality may have led to the belief that it is OK to unleash dogs in the park. So let's be clear. The City of Atlanta and DeKalb County require your dog to be leashed in public at all times, except in fenced, designated dog parks. Lake Claire park is not a dog park.

I will gladly chip in to create a separate fenced area for unleashed dogs, but until then please follow the rules and encourage your friends to do the

same so we can all enjoy the park together.

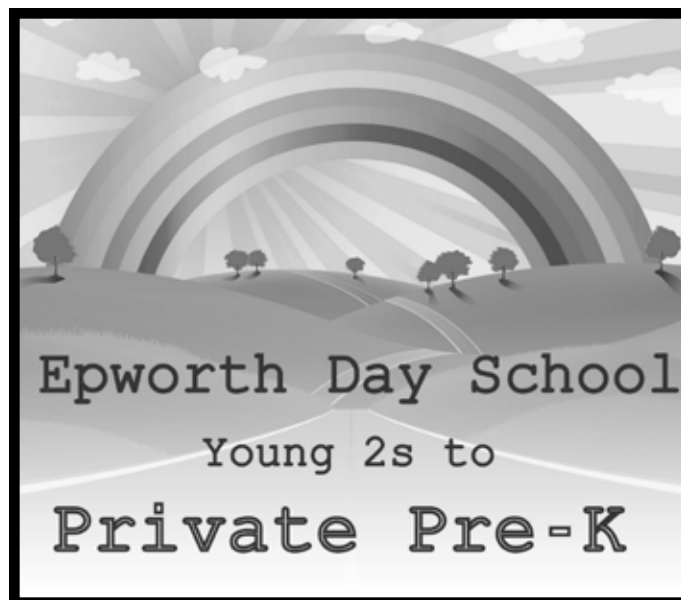
I had a similar experience to Caron - I stopped with Teddy (who was on a leash) in Lake Claire Park because we were approaching a woman with her 2 dogs unleashed, and said "shall I turn back, or could you please put yours on leashes" - she said "oh no, they are nice, don't worry," so we walked by trying to go fast, and one of her dogs snarled and ran up and attacked Teddy, and we could hardly get away. (He did not fight back, but was traumatized.) Also a few years ago someone's dog bit my ankle as I walked by with my previous dog, Sonya. The owner offered to pay any medical bill, but that was not the point. I do think it's a problem. The dog park at Oakhurst is just 5 minutes away, and I've taken dogs there when we feel the need to be off-leash: or my back yard. I have gotten comments from other neighbors on this subject. Here are a few:

"I am not opposed to having

set-asides for dogs where it is appropriate. However, I am very concerned when dogs are allowed to co-mingle with the children. Eventually something bad will happen."

"For me, the reality is that when I'm out running I get very nervous when there is an unleashed dog coming toward me."

Lastly, dogs off-leash have no one to clean up after them (with biodegradable bags, I hope). -Ed.



Biscuits and Bellyrubs



Anna Trodglén 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.

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Lake Claire Holiday Party Continued!

A crowd of 75-80 enjoyed food, fun, and conviviality with neighbors old and new on Thursday evening, December 13. The crowd included every Atlanta Police officer for our beat, Zone 6/Beat 608, as well as their supervisor, Major Keith Meadows, and Representative Natalyn Archibong. A special thanks to Kathie Ryan for many hours in organizing the event, with help from Joe Agee, Miriam Herbers, Kathy Evans, Peg Ziegler, Sara Rockaway (the chair of our welcome committee, who stood at the check-in desk the entire evening), Will Burke (our webmaster, who set up the RSVP program), and artist Pen Sherwood (who did the creative table decorations). Thanks to everyone who came early and stayed late to help set up and take down the tables and chairs, to neighbors who brought salads and desserts to accompany the lasagnas, to Myles Nielsen for being our fantastic DJ, and to the Frazer Center, yet again, for graciously allowing us to gather in their space for this fun event.





Volunteering with Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN)

Lake Claire hosts a variety of events throughout the year and relies on volunteer help from Lake Claire neighbors (with lower case 'n'). Volunteers make up the LCN executive committee, an elected board that leads meetings and guides the homeowners association. The Clarion is designed and produced completely with volunteers. There is a new welcome committee, a schools committee. If you are interested in volunteering to get involved in any way, please e-mail president@lakeclaire.org or if interested in the Clarion's advertising position that is currently open, editor@lakeclaire.org.

Lake Claire Voluntary Membership Dues

If you are a Lake Claire resident, your payment of dues helps us help you. Dues are voluntary and reasonable. Annual membership dues are \$20/household. You may pay your dues at any time of the year, but we recommend paying at the first of the year. You may pay your dues in one of two ways: by PayPal or by mail, by sending a check with your name, address, email address, and telephone number to:

Lake Claire Neighbors, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107



HAPPY NEW YEAR - from your Clarion staff

January into February

by Elizabeth W. Knowlton

The expanding light is so wonderful now. I will never forget my first year in the South 44 years ago as I waited for winter and by February realized that spring had arrived.

tools purchased, and much more. Comparing various years teaches you more than any book.

Speaking of moons, on Jan. 26, look out at your garden around midnight. If the full moon is not

40 years ago in her new home a neighbor found a long bed of peonies breaking through bare soil in March, and they are still blooming each spring.

Many tasks are awaiting. Replace the florescent bulbs in your seed growing area. Prepare or make a cold frame for early seedlings. Use sunny, cold days for cutting and pulling out unwanted English ivy, kudzu, and other thugs. Trim trees and bushes that are not spring blooming. Plant new ones, and water well. Buy the cow manure, wheat straw, and pine straw that you will need this spring.

Inventory seeds from last year. Through experience you will learn which will germinate past their expiration dates, or you can try ten in a damp paper towel placed in a zip lock bag in a warm place. Even when I decide not to keep old seeds, I scatter them in appropriate beds outside. Birds probably eat a great many, but you will be pleased by the odd carrot or welcome mustard green you can harvest. Then quickly scan the seed catalogs or look on line because your orders need to be in very soon if you are to sow in good time.

Prepare any beds that were not done in the fall, adding that nice compost you have made from your leaves, kitchen waste, and other garden greens. Dig up carrots, turnips, parsnips, Jerusalem artichokes, or leeks left from last year as they will soon flower and be inedible. Direct seed garden peas early in February and onions, potatoes, and lettuce later in the month.

Last year I recommended special germinating soil from Gardener's Supply or one of the seed companies. Jiffy Mix Seed Starting Medium is OK if you can find it locally. Do not add fertilizer to seed-germinating soil as small plants live quite well on what is stored in the seed, similar to mammals and the placenta. Do follow directions on the packet as to how to sow the seed and treat it initially. Many flower seeds need light to germinate; cover those that need darkness with foil. You can sow seeds in four-inch pots to be transplanted later or several to a six-pack that you will thin with nail scissors. Plastic wrap will keep the soil moist and warm, but remove it as soon as the seeds germinate. Seedlings need to be kept only a couple of inches from the lights to grow strong and sturdy. The first leaves to appear are usually the seed cotyledon. Wait until you have two or three pairs of true leaves before transplanting, using the technique I described last year. If you transplant, use a coarser medium for that purpose and begin feeding with diluted fish emulsion and/or sea-

weed extract. Seedlings are very forgiving.

Begin your cole plants (broccoli, kohlrabi, kale, etc.) indoors no later than Feb. 7 in this climate as they will need to be in the ground next month.

For us in old neighborhoods I recommend *Bringing a Garden to Life* by Carol Williams (Bantam, 1998). Carol wrote a newspaper column too and anguished over pleas to see her garden when a great deal of it existed in her mind. Sister gardeners were attuned to what she was doing, but with others poor Carol was "unnerved by the disappointment in my visitors' eyes." Remember: "Imagination is not fantasy, but active interest." (p. 12)

You may write to Elizabeth Knowlton at knowltonew@earthlink.net.

GNPS Plant of the Year lives on DeKalb Avenue

by Leah Pine



Native Sassafras albidum

If you ever wondered what the thicket of shrubs/trees along DeKalb Avenue is -- it's sassafras. The Georgia Native Plant Society just named it Plant of the Year for 2013. Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) has fascinating medicinal and historical uses, as well as wildlife and aesthetic value. It is a delightful small to medium-sized tree that is underused in home landscapes. It offers great benefits to native wildlife as well as to the humans that either have or plant this wonderful native tree in their yards. See complete information on this at http://www.gnps.org/indexes/Plant_of_the_Year.php. Enjoy!

Leah Pine is a landscape architect and certified arborist specializing in sustainable design. See www.leahpine.com.



Snowdrops (Galanthus nivalis)

If you planted bulbs, you already have snowdrops appearing, sometimes as early as December. (These are real snowdrops, *galanthus*, not the later southern snowflake, *leucojum*.) If you did not, make a note in the June section of your garden calendar to order some for next year. Yes, make 2013 the year to keep a garden journal. My early ones

obscured by clouds, it will show you the shadows made by trees and shrubs at 11 AM (allowing for daylight savings) on July 26. This is a handy way to pick the best site for a new plot and remind ourselves that what is in full sun in April may be fully shaded by summer.

If you have recently moved to your house, keep a record for at



Southern Snowflakes (Leucojum species)

are just desk calendars: "Jan. 31, 1980, day before full moon, yellow crocus in bloom, daffodils showing." I smile at the excitement and naïveté. What kind of crocus and narcissus? And how late they were! Now I use a ten-year garden journal from Lee Valley that gives space for temperatures, rainfall, seed planting and harvesting, perennials and

least a year before cutting down what is already in the garden. You will be surprised how sweet honeysuckle smells in May and how nice it is to have a screen of privet between you and too-close neighbors. Fashions come and go, even concerning invasives. Unless a dead tree or kudzu is about to demolish someone's house, wait and see. Almost

2012: Another Amazing Year at the Land Trust

by Stephen Wing

Throughout this year of political drama and economic upheaval, the Lake Claire Community Land Trust has quietly continued to blossom and scatter seeds of community to the four winds. Several different communities converge here regularly – gardeners, families with small kids, sweat-lodge participants, Friday night jammers, drummers, dancers and fire-twirlers – all these diverse agendas finding common ground amid the greenery of our communal space.



Liliane Spenle, Grace Powers, and Martha Herbers-Sanger, 3 young women who grew up here, working the craft sale. Lili and Martha played a major role in this event.

By some definitions, such a convergence of diversities is the very essence of community. For those of us who make the Land Trust a personal priority, it confirms a theory: create a space for people to gather amid nature, and anything might happen. Sometimes several things at once.

For the long-awaited Winter Solstice of 2012 – awaited by some for around 12,000 years – the Land Trust hosted a Native American shaman performing a Mayan fire ceremony, while folks frolicked at an End of the World party, others launched paper lanterns on the pond along with their wishes for 2013, and still others showed up for the regular Friday night jam in the Gorilla Grill or the Friday night sweat in the sauna.

This year we accomplished our long-time goal of placing the core of the Land Trust under Conservation Easement – a legal instrument that severely limits future construction, paving, earth-moving, fencing, etc. If the land is ever sold, the Easement restrictions remain in force. Several neighbors and the Lake Claire Neighbors signed on as “Grantees,” who will have legal standing to take future owners to court (or the Land Trust itself) if its provisions are violated. We have hopes that the Easement will add weight to our current tax appeal to reduce our annual property taxes.

The Easement includes the newest addition to our land base, the former Powers’ back yard with its lovely gazebo. Equipped with several picnic tables, this level grassy area provided a perfect “dining room” for our fundraising festivals, thanks to its proximity to the new extension of the Gorilla Grill – a covered patio where food is now grilled and served.

By the time you read this, we will have completed another long-planned project: upgrading and expanding the electrical systems that provide lighting (and sound!), pumps to aerate the pond, etc. This turned out to be far more expensive than anticipated, but will be worth every penny when complete. The city inspector has signed off on the work and the plates and switches are now being installed.

We have leased the Nelms-Dekalb Avenue corner to SoulShine Children’s Studio for the dual purposes of an urban farm and an outdoor classroom. Formerly based right behind

the Land Trust at Amata, Shannon Smith’s after-school and summer camp program is now located in Kirkwood. The new project will bring her kids to the Land Trust to participate in her husband Bremen James’s intensive farming operation. This section of the Trust was formerly a bit of a wasteland, piled with decaying wood chips dropped off by various tree-trimming services.

We launched our Community Business Partners initiative with a letter to around 40 neighborhood businesses. (But have yet to make follow-up calls; if anyone wants to volunteer, we have an easy sit-down assignment for you!) The goal is to form partnerships with people-oriented, human-scale local businesses that can support us in various ways, from website links and raffle prizes to major financial and in-kind donations.

We held a logo contest and selected a heartwarming design by professional designer Roger Swift. It was featured on our first-ever color postcard, featuring our calendar of events for the year. The other logo designs we received are all runners-up and will be used in future projects we’re contemplating, such as an annual T-shirt.

The Land Trust was the scene of two weddings this year, along with ten or so children’s birthday parties. Several families opted for our newest offering: themed kids’ parties, featuring experienced party facilitator “Miss Ladybug” (Andrea Zoppo of Oakhurst Community Garden). We also provided space for assorted nonprofit organizations to raise funds, including EvolverNet, Nuclear Watch South, and the Heartwood intentional community in north Georgia. Friends of guitarist Craig Rafuse used our stage to raise funds for his medical bills.

Land Trust cont. on p. 11



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Volunteer cont. from p. 1

received via PayPal and mail, and follow-up on unpaid ads. Basic knowledge of graphics is helpful but not required.

Jeanne is willing to work with her replacement until the person feels confident. The bulk of the work is the week around the 15th of the month. Please think about it, and contact newsletter@lakeclaire.org (Jeanne) or editor@lakeclaire.org (Beth) with any questions. Further, if someone is available and willing, even if not interested in the position, we have a temporary job – it shouldn't take more than a few hours – which is to solicit some new advertisers. If anyone wants to volunteer, please contact editor@lakeclaire.org to find out whom to call.

Mary Lin Expansion

At the end of last month, Mary Lin Elementary released architects' proposed plans for addition and renovation. Details are posted on Principal Brian Mitchell's blog. The completed addition and renovation will provide 26 core classrooms. A core classroom is defined as a kindergarten through fifth grade classroom. The total number of non-core classrooms, Dr. Mitchell stated, is projected to be 42, which will include art, music, band, orchestra, Gifted, science lab, technology lab, and Special Education. If Mary Lin would need an additional two core classrooms later, these rooms could be added to the existing plans without much disruption to the proposed plans.

The architects did an outstanding job addressing Mary Lin's design review committee's concerns about several issues, such as the small size of the cafeteria, the lack of parking, handling drainage issues when it rains, and the erosion of the slopes on Candler Park Drive. The plans may change in the coming weeks as the architects receive input from the design review committee and the community.

Inman Middle School Spotlight

The Inman Middle School PTA congratulates Paula Herrema (interim principal) and her entire staff for Inman's earning the Georgia Department of Education Reward School designation for the 2012-2013 school year. The Reward School classification is reserved for schools in the State of Georgia with the highest academic performance or the largest academic gains by students in the last three years. As a Highest-Performing School, Inman Middle School is among the 5% of Title I schools in the State of Georgia with the highest absolute performance over three years for all students on Georgia's statewide assessments. Inman Middle School is also one of two schools in Atlanta Public Schools with the Highest-Performing School distinction.

Congratulations to Inman Middle School and the Federal

Reserve Bank of Atlanta for winning the Atlanta Partners for Education 2012 Social Studies Impact Award. Mr. Mike Dorsey from Inman and Ms. Amanda Nicewander from the Federal Reserve received the award on behalf of their partnership at Inman's Awards Banquet. Inman partners with the Federal Reserve to engage 8th graders in an interactive learning experience at the Federal Reserve covering middle school financial social studies curriculum standards.

Attention Lake Claire Parents of Kids at Grady

The Governor's Honors Program is a four week summer instructional program designed to provide intellectually gifted and artistically talented high school students challenging and enriching educational opportunities not usually available during the regular school year. Activities are designed to provide each participant with opportunities to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes to become independent, life-long learners. The Georgia Governor's Honors Program is fully-funded by the Georgia General Assembly, and operates at no cost to the participant. You can find the nomination form on Grady's website, <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Page/14451>.

This year Lake Claire residents raised 20,000+ toward the repair of the Frazer Center Bridge

In 2012, Lake Claire Neighbors signed as a Grantee the Lake Claire Land Trust application for a Conservation Easement, which would give the Land Trust a special tax-exempt status and keep the land safe in perpetuity

We added more sign toppers in Lake Claire

How many other neighborhoods in Atlanta have an ongoing drum circle – or an emu?



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Dear Lake Claire,

We wish each of you the blessings of the season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Your Friends and Neighbors at
the Frazer Center



Coyote Update and Alert

by Meta Larsson

A coyote was spotted in Candler Park at the corner of Benning Place and Oakdale Road, at 11 p.m. in mid December. Candler Park is not alone, as coyotes have been observed in Lake Claire, in our neighboring Frazer Forest, and almost every neighborhood in the Atlanta area. We generally do not see coyotes, because they are naturally afraid of people. As was the case here, coyotes often wait until night, when few people are present. Most people will never see one.

Coyotes provide a valuable function by eating rodents. Without coyotes, we would have an over-abundance of mice and rats. The consensus among scientific experts on coyote management is that trapping and killing coyotes is an ineffective approach to population control and inevitably leads to population. The explanation of this paradox goes as follows: The remaining coyotes will have more food, resulting in larger litters; and, as packs are broken up, there will be more breeding pairs, who, in turn, form new packs. Beyond those factors, when new territory is opened, new coyotes move in from other areas. The growth is significant. Attempts to exterminate coyotes in the American West have brought them to every county, city and state of the continental United States.

The trapping and killing now underway in intown neighborhoods (Durand Mill and Druid Hills), financed by private individuals, not by local government or neighborhood organizations, will affect **all of us**, because the coyote population will in-

crease. (*Trappers are aware of this, but needless to say, trapping and killing keeps them in business.*) Beyond just being ineffective, trapping, as we now know, causes indiscriminate harm. (A pet dog was caught in a leg-hold trap, set in Durand Mill and its owner broke her wrist in the process of getting her dog out). More pets and non-targeted wildlife will be caught in those traps. To target and lure specific animals is extremely difficult and requires long-term observational research.

These private individuals, on their own accord, are taking actions, which will have long-term effects for all of us.

According to research on coyote management, the control of coyote populations most effectively begins with controls over their food sources—many of which we can regulate. Don't allow small pets, chickens, rabbits, etc. to become coyote food. Also avoid making available to coyotes food intended for other animals, including food intended for dogs and cats, chickens or wild-birds. Beyond those measures, secure all garbage containers and dumpsters.

There are things that we can do to ensure that there are no conflicts with coyotes in our neighborhood.

To instill fear of people in coyotes, if encountering a coyote, act scary: make noise—yell, blow a whistle, pop an umbrella, shake a can full of pennies. Keep pets safe: Don't let cats and dogs roam unattended. Invest in fencing to create safe areas for pets. Encourage neighbors to do likewise.

County- and metro Atlanta-wide efforts to educate people about best management practice would help, as would enactment of no-feeding ordinances along the lines suggested above.

For more information, go to www.awarewildlife.org or call **AWARE** at (678) 418-1111, or contact Meta Larsson metalarsson@yahoo.com

Fellow friends of animals: after the recent trapping and killing of coyotes in Druid Hills and Durand Mill, a small group of people opposed to trapping and killing have started a group "Coyote Coexistence - Atlanta" with the aim of raising awareness and of informing people about coyote-human coexistence and what we need to know and do to live coexist peacefully. If interested: metalarsson@yahoo.com

Land Trust cont. from p. 9

We hosted a screening of Lake Claire filmmaker Ebrima Ba's documentary Food, Clothing & Shelter. And spring at the Land Trust would be incomplete without the Krewe of the Grateful Gluttons' annual Tour of Fairy Homes.

Our three annual music festivals brought together music-lovers, Land Trust supporters, and members of our various overlapping communities in a kaleidoscopic celebration of music, food, and fellowship. Besides helping to pay the bills, Spring Fest, the summer Jerry Jam, and Fall Fest grow more amazing every year. The annual winter fundraiser, our Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair, moved to the Lake Claire Cohousing Common House this

year for added space – and was just as crammed as ever with wonderful hand-made gifts (see pictures).

All this in addition to the normal routine of garden rentals, monthly potlucks, drum circles, community saunas, Friday night jams, Easter egg hunt, July Fourth cook-off, Halloween pumpkin carving, meetings and work days. What a year!

If you're interested in plugging in to make 2013 an even better year at the Land Trust, there are several ways to get involved. We need volunteers to pitch in for work days (twice a month, the day after each drum circle). Several times a year we need extra help to plan and pull together our magical music-festival fundraisers. The Board could use your input at its monthly meetings, and our four committees – Events, Planning, Grounds, and Communications – could put your more specialized skills to work. Finally, joining the Land Trust is a way to support us financially if you have no extra time to contribute (or even if you do!)

Thanks for all your support in 2012, and have a terrific New Year!

Personal and Business Classifieds

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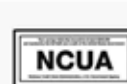
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LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young readers to participate. This month's contribution is by Myles Nielsen of Hardendorf. Though Myles is a previous contributor (April 2012), after I saw his fantastic light extravaganza over the Christmas weeks, I asked him to write an article about how he does it. Myles, who turned thirteen in July, rebuilds computers and does sound and lighting, including all the sound and roadie work for his sister Stella's dance troupe. He also does set design and construction. His Christmas light show is professional and amazing. I hope if you didn't see it that you can still ride down Hardendorf when you get this Clarion for a viewing/listening (corner of Hardendorf and Marlbrook). And read more about Light-O-Rama in the April 2012 Clarion (page 12), including the genesis of the idea for the light show and how Myles earned the money to buy the materials. Myles has been our DJ for several years and is pictured on p. 6.

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. Be creative...we'd love to hear from you. **Next time: tell us what you like about Winter Holidays.... Or choose any other topic of your choice.**

How My Christmas Light Show Works

by Myles Nielsen

My Christmas light show consists of synchronized lights and music. The music plays on a speaker in our front yard for people walking by or through a radio tuned to 89.1 FM so that you can listen to the music in a car.

programming in October and have my light show live shortly after Thanksgiving. Once the programming is done, I have to test all of the strands in my room and replace broken lights. Then I organize the light strands by



Myles Nielsen's Complicated Light Setup

I have a small FM transmitter hooked up to the audio portion of the system. The components to run the show include regular store-bought strands of lights plugged into on/off power distributor controlled called "Light-O-Rama." Feeding the power distributor box is an Ethernet cable that connects a computer (kept inside the house) to the box. (See picture on this page.)

The computer has software from Light-O-Rama that runs a programming routine to dictate which strands go on, off, shimmer, fade, etc. in time to the music. I have to program the music second-by-second across 32 channels. It takes 4 hours to program one minute of music. Because it's very time-consuming, I start

channel and set them up outside.

I have lost count of the extension cords and light strands (see picture), but the storage of the materials takes up several totes and chews up a significant amount of space in our crawl-space.

The Light-O-Rama controller boxes are made by a small company in South Glen Falls, New York, called Light-O-Rama. I got my first controller two years ago when I got the "Light-O-Rama" bug after I discovered it on YouTube. There is one other house in Atlanta I've seen do Light-O-Rama. The house is on Monroe about 2 blocks after the Grady High school football stadium.

-Myles

New Little Lake Clarions



Eli Forest Golden

Eli Forest Golden arrived in Lake Claire in November. Proud parents are Joshua Golden and Mary Colleen Golden of Harold Avenue. Harold Avenue also welcomed Henry Colin Allen on 12/12/12, to parents Craig and Emily Allen.

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January 13, 2:00-4:00pm
January 26, 10:00am-12:00pm

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