

# Students' Opinion: A Detrimental Decision

by Augustus Werthman, Charles Suazo,  
 and Daniel Ratner

Starting on Tuesday, February 16, students went back to in-person learning. This decision process had a lack of transparency, and it ignored the major cons of Atlanta Public Schools (APS) students returning to “face-to-face” learning.

First, in-person learning has been shown to increase the transmission rate of coronavirus. Even though measures are being taken to stop the spread of the virus inside of schools, super-spreader events between students and teachers are still very possible. This is because of the poor ventilation systems in some Atlanta school buildings. “Poor ventilation raises

the risks of super-spreader events. The risk of catching Covid-19 indoors is 18.7 times higher than in the open air, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.” (For example, at Athol High School in Massachusetts, “Fresh air vents were blocked with insulation, classroom exhaust fans had defective motors and controls, zone valves were removed or defective, and fresh air dampers that allow outside air in to circulate had been disconnected or were defective.” And, “Study after study has shown that the coronavirus spreads

*Cont. on p. 9*

# “Every Land Trust Needs a Neighborhood!”

by Stephen Wing

Lake Claire takes quiet pride in three things that no neighborhood should be without: the Frazer Center at our northern edge, serving the developmentally disadvantaged; Clifton Sanctuary, more or less in the middle, helping men transition out of homelessness; and on our southern border, the Lake Claire Community Land Trust—the last protected patch of nature along DeKalb Avenue from downtown to Decatur.

What accounts for the mysterious magnetism that attracts visitors from across metro Atlanta to our gardens and paths? “Every neighborhood needs a Land Trust” has long been our unofficial motto. But that leaves out the key ingredient. Although

known far and wide simply as “the Land Trust,” our urban oasis was envisioned from the beginning as a *Community* Land Trust. Keeping it green was always the goal, but the whole point was to make it a *community* project, harnessing the energy of neighborly cooperation to develop and maintain a neighborhood asset. In the early years, families gathered for work days, fundraisers and potlucks; kids grew up together while their parents pooled their “sweat equity” to build a sauna, a playground, a restroom, a stage. The power of community built the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, which in turn fed the sense of community among neighbors. But Lake Claire has changed tremendously since

then, and the changes keep coming. That initial phase of casual camaraderie gave way to a second phase, defined by a formal nonprofit structure, official tax-exempt status, a board of directors, officers, minutes, and committees. Everyone involved was still a neighbor, for the most part, except for the volunteers who flocked from miles around to create the marvelous music festivals that funded it all. But for actual upkeep of the land itself, volunteers were in scarce supply, and usually they too came from beyond Lake Claire. We ended up relying mostly on paid workers for what had once been accomplished by “sweat equity.”

This way of running a  
*Cont. on p. 10*



# Our Oak Tree: Black Lives Do Matter

by Dan and Kai Curl

As you can see, this is a special tree. We put only first names on our red oak to give them humanity. Shakespeare’s words, “If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge?” point out that we’re all human, whether Jewish, black, woman, gay, or brown.

They, like all of us, were Children of God whose only sin was to be born. Blue lives, all lives, also matter, but they don’t signify here. It saddens us that we have to keep buying signage wood. Names keep welling up like the pain of loss upon their families... and upon us all.

It’s past time for America to get past this.



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## April Calendar

The effects of the Covid pandemic are far-reaching across industries, but in particular restaurants and the arts have suffered terribly. Atlanta theatres, concert halls, and other performance venues, as well as artists and museums, are adapting with a variety of formats, such as drive-in movie style productions, socially distanced live shows, streaming, Zoom, timed entrances, and recorded performances. Ditto, restaurants, with take-out, outside dining, inside socially distanced dining. As more and more folks are vaccinated and want to attend events but in a safe fashion, we've tried to find these opportunities to share with you. Please send anything you know about, or other items relevant for Lake Claire, by April 18 for the May calendar, to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org).

**2** Gallery 378 presents the show *Flower* starting April 2, and running through April 29. See article Page 6.

**4** The Easter bunny is hop-hop-hopping today.

**7-18** The Alliance is happy to announce the "Under the Tent" series. April 7-8: Tyrone Jackson and Friends; April 8-18: *Beautiful Blackbird Live*, a family friendly concert that will have you on your feet celebrating the uniqueness of each of us. Shake your tailfeathers and dance to the music! April 10: Sister Omelika; April 15-17: Tiny Theatre Company. For info on all, see [alliancetheatre.org/production/2020-21/](http://alliancetheatre.org/production/2020-21/). The Alliance is also streaming, in the program "Alliance Theatre Anywhere." See same link as above.

**8, 22 & 29** Atlanta Symphony, "Behind the Curtain" series. Apr 8: Beethoven and Mozart; Apr 22: Chopin and Shostakovich; and Apr 29, All Brahms. All are virtual, see complete info at [aso.org/concerts-tickets](http://aso.org/concerts-tickets).

**10** Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Pre-registration required. Space is limited. Help restore and maintain our beloved neighborhood old-growth forest. [frazercenter.org/about-us/events](http://frazercenter.org/about-us/events)

**11** Lake Claire Community Land Trust Board Meeting, via Zoom, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. You are welcome to attend; write to [secretary@lakeclaire.org](mailto:secretary@lakeclaire.org) to get the Zoom link. See article Page 1, continued on pp 10-11.

**13** Theatrical Outfit presents pivotal solo productions that speak directly to the world today, in a streaming format: *A Hundred Words For Snow* by Tatty Hennessy, April 13-May 2. In the next few months, presentations of *Fires In The Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn, And Other Identities* by Anna Deavere Smith, a virtual wine tasting, *TO Hearts ATL*, and the annual *Our Luckie Stars Gala*. See details at [www.theatricaloutfit.org](http://www.theatricaloutfit.org).

**15** Lake Claire monthly meeting, via Zoom. Always the third Thursday of the month, 7:15 p.m. To receive occasional informational e-mails about and happenings in Lake Claire, as well as reminders of upcoming meetings, please sign up at [lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/](http://lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/). Lake Claire's current info can always be found on the website at [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org).

**15** Hungry Hippo Eats Food Truck: Haitian Jerk BBQ with a Southern Flair, will be parked on the corner of Connecticut @ Delaware for you to pick up to-go food safely. Please mask while you are there. If you drive, park on Connecticut please, not Delaware. 5 to 8 p.m., and if you pre-order it will be ready for you to pick up: pre-order online at [www.HungryHippoEats.com](http://www.HungryHippoEats.com).

**17** *In Their Shoes*, a virtual walk/run 10-mile challenge and opportunity to help people experiencing homelessness. See article Page 3.

**17** Join friends and neighbors at the first-ever Spring "Annuals and Edibles" Plant Sale at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. More on Page 11.

**18** Kids who miss Miss Ladybug - see what's happening on Page 3.

**22** Earth Day! There is much one could do, but to mention three: (1) Celebration of nature with your little ones in Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Make Kids will make a garden-inspired creation out of natural materials, watch special performances on the Great Lawn at 10:30 or 11:15 a.m., and hunt for beautiful art made out of recycled materials. Activities are set up for comfort and safety during the pandemic. Limited attendance, distanced seating in family pods, and thoroughly sanitized supplies, are just a few elements of a healthy and enjoyable experience for all. Weather permitting. Will be cancelled if rain or inclement weather make outdoor programming impractical. To check the status, email [registrar@atlantabg.org](mailto:registrar@atlantabg.org). (2) See Hands-On Atlanta for volunteer activities at [handsonatlanta.org/upcoming-events/earth-day-2021](http://handsonatlanta.org/upcoming-events/earth-day-2021). (3) See Miss Ladybug activity, article Page 3

**30-May 3** The Atlanta City Nature Challenge with Frazer Center and Fernbank. Help put Atlanta on the geo-map! Participate at your leisure all weekend. See article on Page 3. [frazercenter.org/about-us/events](http://frazercenter.org/about-us/events)

### OTHERS:

**Actor's Express:** Streaming *Crossroads*, a journey of living and what one would sacrifice in order to live. Info at [www.actors-express.com](http://www.actors-express.com). Free and now streaming. Actor's Express has also commissioned three of Atlanta's most dynamic and fiercely talented young playwrights to craft short-form solo performance pieces. Info at the same link.

**The Atlanta Opera:** the 2020-2021 mainstage season has moved to 2021-22; stream unlimited Atlanta Opera productions and special content. See [atlantaopera.org](http://atlantaopera.org).

**The Horizon:** Nothing announced as of Clarion publication. Feel free to check [www.horizontheatre.org](http://www.horizontheatre.org).

### EARLY MAY:

**Family movie night** at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust on second Saturdays starting May 8. Kid-friendly snacks, socially distant spacing, details on Page 11.

**THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.**

# Fun and Worthwhile Activities for Adults and Kids Alike



## In Their Shoes: An Opportunity to Help People Get Their Lives Back

by Melanie Bliss

Can you imagine walking ten miles a day in Atlanta through our infamous heat, humidity, bitter ice, cold rain, or heavy pollen? Many people experiencing homelessness walk an average of ten miles daily to secure food, shelter, and safety, among other reasons. Night shelters and places that offer food are clearly important services. However, sometimes people have trouble securing jobs or housing because they do not have identification cards or a place to receive mail. The Central Outreach and Advocacy Center (COAC) meets critical needs for people experiencing homelessness.

Located at 201 Washington Street, across from the state capitol, thousands of people benefit annually from COAC programming. By providing supportive services such as obtaining birth certificates, identifications, and social security cards; offering job readiness, interviewing, and application skills; and providing access to emergency food, clothing, and other organizations to meet essential needs; the COAC fully lives into its mission of “opening doors to prevent homelessness.” Quite literally, these services can be the opening point to help someone get his or her life back.

As a board member, I’m excited to announce this year’s annual fundraiser will be “In Their Shoes: 10 Mile Challenge.” This virtual walk/run can be completed at any time and place of participants’ choosing with an official day of April 17. There will be an experiential listening component offering education and inspiration.

Please join with neighbors, family, and friends and accept this challenge! For those of us who are able, participating in this event and donating generously are ways to walk in solidarity with our neighbors experiencing homelessness and make a real difference in people’s lives.

Race registration and donations can be made at [centraloac.org/donate/](http://centraloac.org/donate/). Email me at [DrMBliss@icloud.com](mailto:DrMBliss@icloud.com) if you have questions or if you would like to donate on my personal fundraising page.

Thank you for your support!



## Frazer Needs YOU for the City Nature Challenge

by Dina Shadwell

Are you a citizen scientist? You could be, if you participate in the City Nature Challenge happening April 30–May 3. For the third year in a row, Frazer Center is partnering with our neighbor Fernbank to help put Atlanta on the geo-map. And we can’t do it without YOU.

The City Nature Challenge began in 2013 as a friendly competition between San Francisco and Los Angeles to celebrate the first ever Citizen Scientist Day. Part of the mission of the contest was to connect city residents to their local nature, and to collect urban biodiversity data and make it available for science, management, and conservation purposes. In 2019, thanks to Fernbank’s leading the charge, Atlanta was one of 159 cities joining the fun. Last year, 244 cities around the world were involved, and the percentage of individuals participating in Atlanta increased by 72 percent.

How can you help Atlanta compete on a worldwide stage? It’s easy. During the dates of the City Nature Challenge,

- Observe wildlife—plants, animals, fungi;
- Photograph it using a smart phone;
- Upload photos to the iNaturalist app.

And that’s it! You don’t have to know what it is you are observing. The iNaturalist app helps identify species. Observations can be made anywhere in the city, even in your own front yard. We think Frazer Forest makes a great place to participate, and your observations will help us learn more about the biodiversity within our neighborhood old-growth forest. Fernbank Ecologist Eli Dickerson says, “I feel very strongly that [Atlanta] can crest 1500 species and 10,000 observations for the first time this year.” The 2021 Atlanta City Nature Challenge makes for a great family or school project that is also pandemic-friendly. Put on your citizen scientist cap, show your Atlanta pride, get the iNaturalist app, and find some nature!

*Links you may find useful:* [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org); [citynaturechallenge.org](http://citynaturechallenge.org); [fernbankmuseum.org/AtlantaCNC](http://fernbankmuseum.org/AtlantaCNC); [frazercenter.org/about-us/events](http://frazercenter.org/about-us/events). As a reminder, a top priority of the Frazer Center is protecting and nurturing the native growth in the forest. **This is just one reason that dogs must be leashed at all times when in Frazer Forest.** Unleashed dogs are a primary spreader of invasive seeds, especially Japanese chaff flower. Unleashed dogs have also created spur trails throughout the



## Ladybug Hugs:

Update and Happy Earth Day from Ms. Ladybug!

Earth Day has always meant a lot to me. I’ve been honored to have volunteered, organized, and participated in many Earth Day events. Last year I even discovered that I am related to an Earth Day founder! As you know, a ladybug would say that every day is Earth Day, just like we all should. April is a meaningful and beautiful month to be inspired, celebrate our beautiful planet and to take action! How can we better serve our mother earth and in turn serve ourselves and our families in order to have a brighter and more resilient future?

This year I joined the **Get Off The Grid** organization, and we are hosting a socially distant sustainable festival at Crabtree Farms in Chattanooga, on April 18. In Ladybug Events fashion, I’ll be hosting a worm puppet show and summer seed swap. This day-long festival is free and includes music and food trucks. Later this summer the Get Off The Grid Festival will feature three days of music, family fun, and environmental education, all powered by the sun—just minutes from the Georgia/Tennessee border. All “Get Off the Grid” events are completely solar powered! I’ll be there with a band of puppet friends providing educational entertainment about our environment. Since the pandemic my services with Ladybug Events have for the most part ceased. In 2020, I began reaching into new directions, including writing children’s books, consulting PBS with education materials, making videos on my YouTube channel, and working on a farm near Chattanooga. I have been helping some schools in metro Atlanta with outdoor learning gardens and classrooms, to help expand options for children and staff to learn and grow outdoors.

Want to keep up with fun stuff I am up to? I’d love to connect on Instagram [@Followladybug](https://www.instagram.com/Followladybug). Sending you all Ladybug Hugs! (And if you are interested in virtual puppet classes with my friends, the website is [playfulevolvingmonsters.com](http://playfulevolvingmonsters.com).) If you are interested in the Get Off The Grid Festival and joining us on April 18 and later this summer, [www.getoffthegridfest.net](http://www.getoffthegridfest.net).

*forest, contributing to erosion and the suppression of native species. Not to mention, terrorizing the dogs appropriately on leashes. **Thank you for respecting this request. Enjoy the Frazer Woods, friends both human and canine!***



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## Clarification Regarding Lake Claire Park Borders

by Caroline Judy

My husband and I live on Lakeshore Drive and have noticed an increasing number of kids (sometimes with adults) playing in Lullwater Creek in our yard behind our house. We've also encountered several instances of children cutting through the creek on our back yard as a shortcut to the Frazer Center.

We understand that children will want to traipse through the creek, and we hate having to ask people to stay out of our yard, but this is

private property, and we hope that park visitors will respect that. We are worried about the safety issues, as well, since we have a toddler, and our neighbors' children, who are there with permission to use the yard, wear masks and practice our safety practices. (I am also an ICU nurse and have worked with Covid patients.) We must have a healthy amount of paranoia these days!

Thanks for understanding.

## City in the Forest Update

As many know, Atlanta has long had a reputation as the "city in a forest," due to its abundance of trees, uncommon among major cities. A commitment to protect this legacy led to the formation of City in the Forest (CITF), with the goal "to preserve our roots and protect our future."

CITF is a coalition of Metro Atlanta residents advocating for better tree protection, and raising awareness for improved tree protection ordinances and more balanced building practices. As our city grows, CITF is focused on a better way forward that serves all interests while preserving our unique urban forest. Here is the latest from them:

Dear Lake Claire,

As friends of Atlanta's trees and urban forest, our Citizens Group is keeping you informed on important tree-saving initiatives. There are several ways that you can participate in helping stop the massive tree loss in our City.

In particular, as noted in last month's Clarion, The City is rewrit-



## A Special Way to Help Our Neighbors

by Heather Friedman, LifeLine Animal Project CMO

LifeLine Animal Project believes that people shouldn't have to give up their pets when they fall on harder times. With evictions and other COVID-19 related challenges on the rise in Atlanta, LifeLine started a Safety Net Foster program to provide pet owners in crisis with temporary housing for their pets. Fosters can volunteer to keep pets for 30 days (or more), giving pet owners time to get back on their feet without having to surrender their furry family.

LifeLine recently started the program at the Fulton and DeKalb County Animal Services shelters to help pet owners faced with medical emergencies, evictions, and other immediate needs. Most recently, a woman who was recovering from a stroke was having difficulty caring for her large dog. LifeLine found a 30-day foster home for her dog,

Brutus. The foster parent sent photos and video updates (through the shelter) to the woman so she could see how her beloved pet was doing. When she recovered, she was joyfully reunited with her pup. Offering a lifeline to people in crisis not only reduces the number of animals surrendered to stressful shelters, but it also keeps them in loving foster homes where they thrive until they can reunite with their families.

If you, like many of us, want to help out during these challenging times, consider becoming a Safety Net Foster. Or, if you know someone facing evictions, or in need of this kind of help, please let them know about the Safety Net Foster program so that we can keep more people and pets together, where they belong. Check out [LifeLineAnimal.org/safetynet](http://LifeLineAnimal.org/safetynet).

## And Meet a LifeLine pup looking for love!

This is Beau, is a sweet senior who still has plenty of pep left in his step! He is calm, cheerful, and people-oriented. Beau belongs in a loving home surrounded by people who will admire him for the dashing boy he is. He weighs a mere 87 lbs (he has a bit of the middle-age spread going on), his manners are impeccable, and he is quite a delight to be around. This boy is the total package and will make a wonderful addition to your family. For more information about Beau, please contact [adoption@dekalbanimalservices.com](mailto:adoption@dekalbanimalservices.com).



[www.cityintheforest.org/files/2021/03/tpo-comparison-table\\_3-16-21.pdf](http://www.cityintheforest.org/files/2021/03/tpo-comparison-table_3-16-21.pdf).

Your voice continues to be critical as we urge Atlanta City Council to pass the Citizens Blended Draft by May 2021. If you haven't contacted the City Council yet, it is not too late. Visit [www.cityintheforest.org](http://www.cityintheforest.org), and go to the tab "action." There, you will find the email addresses of all the City Council members. You will also find more detailed information about our efforts and how you can help.

Thank you,

Kathryn Kolb  
404-862-0118  
for City in the Forest

Since the last Clarion, we have created a comparison chart that breaks down the differences between Atlanta's current TPO, the City's proposed draft, and our Citizens' Blended Draft. You can see it at: [cityintheforest.org/files.wordpress](http://cityintheforest.org/files.wordpress).

# FLOWER, at 378 Gallery

FLOWER is a colorful Spring exhibition celebrating The Flower in various mediums. From Debra Baker Steinmann's beautifully layered textiles to Lisa Alembik's body-part

botanicals, this show features works by seven Georgia artists and proves to have something for everyone.

Participating Artists: Lisa Alembik, Terry S. Hardy, Pepe Paban,

Jeffery Wilcox Paclipan, Mario Petrirena, Debra Baker Steinmann, Cindy Zarrilli (see picture at left). Show opens at 4 p.m. on April 2 and runs through April 29.

ton Avenue, on the border of Lake Claire and Candler Park. Gallery Hours following the opening are Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 6 p.m., and by appointment. For additional information call the gallery at 404 530 9277.

378 Gallery is located at 378 Clif-



Orange Poppy by Cindy Zarrilli



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# Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (aka Carol Vanderschaaf)

Will April be the light at the end of the Covid tunnel? Our new president (Biden) promises we may all be about to get the vaccine by May 1. Soon, those of us lucky enough to be old enough to have gotten our two shots can get together in small social groups. Surely by the fourth of July. Is the good old U.S. of A. gonna be back again, or will those new strains of the disease lay us low again? Well, again, let us continue to enjoy the quiet treasures of our 'hood...

"I saw lots of birds," reports Ilene S. "I've seen purple finches, house finches, redwinged blackbirds, grackles, a thrasher, robins, a couple of tufted titmice, a kinglet, barred owls, mourning doves, Carolina wrens, and a rufous-sided towhee. Also, the lower dam of the Candler Park beaver pond failed again and has not yet been rebuilt. So the bigger of the two ponds has been dry for at least a month. The upper one was intact last time I was there, which was early last week."



Rufous-sided towhee

Miriam H. notes, "Winter bird watching consisted of birds that came to my bird feeder at the higher elevation of my deck. Now that I am "down lower" in the yard I am seeing the darling phoebes and blue birds. Waiting for my favorite cat birds to return. Saw a blue heron one time. Jane Merkle's woodland yard has blood root blooming!"

The last week of February (just missing the March Clarion going to press), Andrew S. "spotted a fritillary fluttering past our bird feeder. We often see them in our yard, but never before so early in the year. More evidence of global warming, perhaps!" Later, Andrew continued. "Groups of winter visitors have been busy around our bird feeder on Harold Avenue—redwing blackbirds, bluebirds, goldfinches—and hummingbirds! This morning (written Feb. 16) with a sprinkling of snow on exposed surfaces, temperature 30°F, wind chill 20°F, we watched a hummingbird sipping nectar from the camellia bush blooming beside our back door. When a neighbor reported one last month, we were skeptical,

but now we have seen it with our own eyes."

News from Frank W., "I have counted over 20 species of birds in our neighborhood. I've recently seen bunnies, a very little bunny on Arizona Avenue, and a few weeks ago, one on Adolphus. I saw a very large woodpecker in Candler Park recently, as well as quite a few hawks circling in the vicinity of Indiana Avenue. I haven't seen a squirrel we nicknamed "Red Pants," but I identified a close relative whom I call "Red Flanks," residing in our backyard squirrel house, which is the size of a large shoe box, the round hole positioned so we see squirrels coming in or out. Not only is it warm inside the squirrel house, but it's also safe from those hawks circling around," Frank says.

Here are Genise S.'s lovely *Thoughts on Spring...* "In the 5 days I was recently out of town, this happened:

1. The narcissus, big yellow daffodils, and paper whites had finished blooming, but new large white daffodils were now open; 2. My hyacinths had finished blooming, but white iris and Eco Easter iris were now in bloom; 3. The *Magnolia x soulangeana* had gone from only half its blossoms open to half the blossoms blanketing the sidewalk and stairs (*Editor's note: I have been seeing it on dog walks, and it is gorgeous—the intact leaves and those spread on your sidewalk!*); 4. Anemone, whose bulbs I planted in December, have just started to bloom; 6. My forsythia is now in full bloom while only a few bits of yellow were showing when I left; 7. The *Ficaria verna* (butter-



Knot of brown snakes, or Dekay's snakes, (*Storeria dekayi*), waking up from their winter rest

cup family) and Ipheion (starflower, Spring starflower) were and still are blooming. My conclusion is that during the Spring "surge," one needs to observe one's yard and one's neighbors' yards every single day in order to enjoy fully the wonder of Spring plants pushing their way out of the ground into glory."

And Bernard S. follows up on his post from last month, "Yes, all our mice are gone. They are in heaven, making little mice with wings and halos. As for the organism (flora or fauna), I scraped off the boat, not wanting to propagate this creature into other bodies of water, I still don't know what it was. It had some very geometric patterns. Beautiful, in some strange way. Right now we are on a pecan farm where I am helping a friend trim his trees. I have seen lots of birds, mostly sparrows of some sort, cardinals, and some little birds with black caps on their heads. (No idea what they are.)" (*Flora's Guess: Perhaps a Carolina chickadee?*)

Melissa, who lives in the Midway 'hood, saw a fox in her yard recently (in addition to the fox she saw near the East Lake Country Club last month). She told me about the fox family that she and her partner, Jonathan, had in their yard three years ago. When they acquired two large dogs, the foxes apparently took their leave. Time will tell if those foxes are thinking of coming back.

Beth (on Delaware, our illustrious editor) saw a brown snake in front of her house, about 10 inches long in some leaves at the end of March. She noted, "People should know that they are common here when the weather starts getting warmer; they are



Seedbox (or rattlebox) plant, *Ludwigia alternifolia*

harmless, non-venomous, and spend most of their life undetected under leaf litter, pine straw. They feed on earthworms and slugs." See photo, so if you see one, you won't mistakenly think it's dangerous and kill him or her.

Meredith W. has a new plant and sent us info on it: "the seedbox (or rattlebox) plant, *Ludwigia alternifolia*, is a member of the Evening Primrose Family. It is native to the United States and is mostly a wetlands plant. (See photo above.) I was excited to have a new native I'd just learned about in my own yard, which I've been clearing of invasives. I've finally gotten it to a point where I could do some plantings, and we just put in a red mulberry, beautyberries, a couple red cedars, spicebush, buttonbush, inkberry, wax myrtle, tag alder, yellowroot, and some cardinal flowers. I'm not sure if they'll all be happy in their new spots, but fingers are crossed. We also moved some black cherry seedlings that were under the power lines to our backyard where they will hopefully be able to thrive. When our black cherry fruited last year, it was like a Disney movie; it had so many birds and squirrels and rabbits and chipmunks surrounding it to eat the fruit. Oh, and this week tons of bloodroot is blooming at Emory on a trail near the Hahn Woods parking circle."

As for animals, continued Meredith, "I saw two bucks and two does running through the field at Emory. They were so playful that I thought

**Cont. on p. 9**

# Dues—Due in 2021

Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household. Lake Claire banners are \$45; a package deal of dues/banner is only \$60! Since the MARCH Clarion, the following folks paid dues.

Noah Schectman  
Scott Long  
Paul Cartwright  
Constance Wiemar  
Kristin Bryan  
Jamie Cohen  
Sarah Goodfellow  
Maneesha Agarwal

Seth Holladay  
Dorothy Dabbs  
Kathy and William Watson  
Genise and Bernard Spenle  
Mark Begnard  
Mark Steinberg  
Sharon Leslie

Pay at [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org) via the link OR with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to Eileen O'Neill, Treasurer, Post Office Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.



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## Hello – Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

### April Birthdays:

April 2, Tyler Bliss, Leonardo, turns 13  
 April 6, Bridgette Maddux turns 11. Harold Ave  
 April 10, Kelly Crutcher, Hardendorf  
 April 12, Aarini Kakkar, Southerland Terrace  
 April 15, Jim Wilson, Delaware Avenue  
 April 17, Joe Agee, Harold Avenue  
 April 18, Deacon Baker, Leonardo, turns 20 (that means Boyd is really old!)  
 April 19, Emily Allen, Harold Avenue  
 April 21, Jamie McGill, my favorite Jamie in the world, Delaware Avenue, turns 18  
 April 23, Dan Geller, Marlbrook  
 April 27, Claudia Restler, Lakeshore Drive  
 April 28, Sara McGill, my favorite SARA in the world, Delaware Avenue, turns 16  
 April 28, Kevin Restler, Lakeshore Drive  
 April 30, Beth van Arkel, Southerland Terrace  
 Send us stuff for February ([editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)) by January 15.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

April 3: Pen and Andrew Sherwood of Harold Avenue, their 10th wedding anniversary!! Congrats!

*Send us birthdays and other life cycle changes for May—help make this series inclusive ([editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)) by MAY 15.*

## Lake Claire Merchandise

Lake Claire in collaboration with the FineArtAmerica offers a way to buy neighborhood items online, including the Lake Claire banner by Leslie Hodges, the ‘Ski Lake Claire,’ and the ‘30307 Not Just a Zip Code’ logos. Just like at Shutterfly, all of these images can be made into coffee mugs, clothing, face masks, etc. For more details, go to the Shop and Support tab at the top of the LCN website [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org). They do not make hanging banners and bumper

stickers, so these items will continue to be ordered directly from LCN via cash, check, or PayPal.



## Wild in Lake Claire

### Continued from Page 7

they were dogs at first, and one of the bucks stopped and stared at me for a long moment, looking super curious. On a later visit, I saw a man carrying away an antler; I guess this is the time of year when they’re losing them, though the two I saw still had their full racks. I found another baby brown snake while working in the yard. We heard chorus frogs on our visit to Mt Arabia several weeks back—a super sweet first sign of spring. And last week I found a carpenter bee on its back who looked like it was dying. I brought it inside and put it in a box, offering it honey water and flowers and taking it outside when it was warm enough. Its legs didn’t seem to be working right, and it stayed in the box without trying to leave for 4-5 days. Then finally one day I saw it crawling up the side of the box. I dropped something off in-

side, and when I came back around, it had disappeared. Maybe it got eaten by a bird, but I prefer to think that after a few days of recuperation it was ready once again to take wing.” (*Meredith, I have some for you...~Ed.*)

My neighbor, Sherri ML, reports two wildlife sightings. Often in the middle of the nights, a possum scampers through her yard, waking her dogs up and causing a big commotion. The other wildlife encounter is not so much a sighting as a smelling. Sherri swears she can smell a skunk in her yard. And apparently skunks do inhabit our urban ‘hoods. But I’d like to put my head in the sand over this one. I can only say I’ll believe it when I smell it.

Before we disappear into the seasons, let us not forget that on April 22 we celebrate Earth Day! The theme this year is “Restore Our Earth.”

## Students’ Opinion

### Continued from Page 1

most rapidly in poorly ventilated areas, let alone inside hallways and classrooms like those in Athol High School with absolutely no ventilation. ‘It’s not just a problem at Athol, but throughout Massachusetts and across the country,’” says Jean Fay, a special education paraprofessional from Amherst, Mass. In fact, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a report in June that to prevent the spread of the coronavirus when inside schools, more than 41 percent of school districts need to update or replace their heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in at least half of their buildings.

APS is already underdeveloped and has a lack of funding. According to APS Insights, “Atlanta Public Schools has the three highest poverty schools in the state for each grade level—elementary, middle, and high.” There is no way to guarantee the students are being protected from a lack of ventilation.

In addition to putting students and their families at risk, teachers are vulnerable. The CDC has proven that “the risk for severe illness with Covid-19 increases with age, with older adults at highest risk. Severe illness means that people diagnosed with Covid may require hospitalization, intensive care, ventilators to help them breathe, or they may even die.” These teachers are at an increased risk of being forced to return to teach in classrooms. Many teachers are required to return because they must have a registered health problem or close connection to someone that does in order to be exempted. Being older and fearing Covid-19 doesn’t count.

The choice to go back to school was sparked by many compelling reasons, but they may not be as beneficial as you think. They say that because students have a more stable and interactive environment, they will be able to focus better. This may not be true. For Atlanta Public Schools, children will be sitting at desks, on their computers, with headphones on. This is exactly how school would take place at home. The students’ learning experience wouldn’t be enhanced in

any way, and it may even be harmful to their learning. For Howard Middle School, the students will stay in one classroom, with one teacher throughout the day. There may be a time when every single person in the room is on a different Zoom session. One student may be asking a question and another presenting a project, all while the teacher is giving a lecture. These situations may make it impossible to learn.

Others may also say that schools are very safe, but there is no denying that going to school increases the chance of your getting infected, or of you infecting others. The American Academy of Pediatrics says, “Physically reopening schools might accelerate the increase—potentially raising the number of children with severe symptoms and spurring spread among the community at large.” It is much safer for children to stay home until we have reached herd immunity.

With only 67 days of school left, students and staff should stay home until everyone is vaccinated and it is safe to return. President Biden has promised to administer 100 million vaccines by his 100th day in office; however, some projections have shown that this could even be too modest. The United States is administering 1 million doses per day, and it is constantly increasing. In the next few months, this number could reach 2 million per day until eventually everyone is vaccinated. Once this highly anticipated day arrives, students and staff may return to in-person learning in a safe environment.

The choice to return to in-person learning has many drawbacks, with few tangible benefits. It’s more dangerous for students and teachers, and it may be harmful to a student’s learning. We should continue with online school for the remainder of the semester, or until vaccinations are widespread to prevent any of these possible disadvantages.

*We thank Augustus, Charles, and Daniel, who are students at Grady High School. ~Ed.*

Much of the celebration will be virtual. Be sure to check with any listed event to be sure it is still happening or if it is cancelled due to Covid. [*See calendar on Pg. 2.*]

I ask that if you see any interesting flora or fauna, please let my eager assistant know. Her goal is to have information from every section of our neighborhood represented

in this column. She is a very hard worker and definitely believes in inclusion. **Wild’s e-mail address has been changed to [floweryfauna@gmail.com](mailto:floweryfauna@gmail.com).** You are more than welcome to send any news or comments to that email address.

Thanks from F. Fauna and her devoted assistant, C. Vanderschaaf.

## April into May in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton, knowltonew@earthlink.net

How is the garden you started last month coming along? Mine is full of blooming bulbs, but the peas planted in February did not appear until March 10. There has been enough rain and not too much early heat, important in Georgia where drought and heat kill more than frost.

Have your radishes and lettuces sprouted? If you did sow seeds too closely together, harvest the biggest plants first, giving the others more room to develop. Are children helping? Show them how to pull radishes and weeds without standing on the soil because that will squeeze out all the places you created last month where water, air, and good creatures can enter. If you made your bed too wide to reach halfway across, lay some old boards down to stand on in the middle. Once you can see the seedlings, mulch around them with wheat straw or shredded leaves. If it does not rain during a week, water your tiny plants gently with a watering can or fine-nozzle hose.

Meanwhile, the tomato or other tender plants you started inside should have grown stocky by now, transplanted when they have two real leaves into separate pots, and

kept close under florescent lights. A windowsill in full sun is possible if the plants are right up against the glass, but few people have an ideal space for more than a few pots. I order my germinating and transplanting soils from Gardener's Supply Company, and they have no "sell by" date so can be used for multiple years if your first endeavors are small.

Of course, you do not want to make the final move outside until all chance of frost has passed. This seems to be getting earlier and earlier. A safe rule of thumb is to wait to put your tender plants into the garden until Passover or Easter, not because of their religious significance to many, but because each occurs at a different time around the full moon (a time when last frosts sometimes strike) in late March or early April, this year Mar 28. In 2020 the last frost was Feb. 22, so I am sure you are safe as you read this.

Tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers are heavy feeders. Nowadays you can buy organic fertilizers especially concocted for these plants. Dig a nice deep hole for them, and mix some composted manure as well as the fertilizer all the way through so that

they will send roots deeply into the soil. Tomatoes can be planted with most of their stems underground and only a few leaves showing because those stems will send out extra roots. Water deeply, and erect whatever cages are needed for the full size of these big producers. Those little cone-shaped circular cages are not large enough for a tomato that grows 10-20 ft. (called indeterminate). If you are not handy building things, consider ordering a couple of cages online; they fold up flat, and I have had mine for decades.

It is now warm enough to sow beans, corn, and squash directly into prepared ground. These seeds are large and easy for small children to handle. In fact all of these tasks are simple (if children are under eleven and don't yet think themselves smarter than you), like learning to cook a meal, take public transit, or fix a toilet. Really, a first garden is usually the most successful because the soil has not yet been depleted of natural nutrients, and animals have not yet noticed its location.

As you dig, weed, or rake, do you see worms or other signs of life? If your property has spent years "main-

tained" by a yard service, they have probably blown off all the leaves and grass clippings, perhaps added some chemical fertilizers, and sprayed to kill insects and other animals—in short, removed almost all life. But you will fix this later in the year.

By June you will know: if you picked the right location for the bed, if no building or tree to the north keeps it in shade most of the year; if you need to prune back your shrubs a little so flowers get the best eastern sun; if rain puddles and frost lingers too late in spring. Decide whether you should move your garden next year. Keep a simple journal or notebook of what you are doing, when and where you plant things, how long it takes them to germinate, when and how much you harvest—if you harvest. Now let's be positive. As my teenaged garden helpers often say to me, "It is so nice just being outside."

If my talk about directions last month or now is making you nervous, think about where the sun comes up in the morning. The east! Facing it, north is to your left; south, to the right. If the sun is behind you, it is time to sit down with a cool drink.

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## "Every Land Trust Needs..."

Continued from Page 1

Land Trust worked fine for a decade or so, but is clearly unsustainable for the long term. Most Board members have served that long or more, doubling as committee members and doing much of the hands-on work as well. We have long fantasized about hiring a "caretaker" to handle day-to-day decisions, coordinate volunteers, and keep up with routine maintenance. Experts in nonprofit governance we have consulted tell us it is now time to hire an *Executive Director* instead, and let the Board step back to an advisory role. But how can we reliably raise \$35,000 every year to cover such a person's salary and benefits?

We seem to be on the verge of a quantum leap to a third phase of operation as a neighborhood nonprofit. We are ready for new ideas, new energy, new perspectives on our future. The path laid out by other nonprofits gives us a road map to follow, but not at the cost of sacrificing our commitment to community. Among the changes rolling through Lake Claire in the past decade are a wave of new homes replacing "teardowns," an influx of young families, and a steady rise in median income. All the re-

sources we need to take our urban oasis to the next level are right here in our little neighborhood. But to activate them, we'll have to cultivate a renewed sense of *community*. And for that, we need *you*.

Even with our playground and restroom temporarily closed for the Pandemic, scores of young parents bring their children to the Land Trust literally every day to visit Big Lou the Emu, feed the turtles, see Amata's goats, and introduce young minds to Mother Nature. Like generations of visitors before them, these families might be coming from Kirkwood or Druid Hills or Decatur—but some must surely be residents of Lake Claire. If this is you, I invite you to consider adopting the Land Trust as *your* neighborhood Land Trust, and joining our community of Land Trust lovers. This might seem like a stretch if you are raising young children while pursuing a career. But after introducing young minds to nature, isn't the next step to introduce them to community? The founders of the Trust were themselves parents during those formative years, after all.

Cont. on p. 11



# Family-Friendly Events at the Land Trust!

by Sherri McLendon

The LCCLT is announcing two family-friendly events in April and May.

In April, join friends and neighbors at the first-ever Spring “Annivals and Edibles” Plant Sale at Lake Claire Community Land Trust, on Saturday, April 17. All proceeds (cash or Venmo) support the Land Trust, a 501C-3 non-profit.

Coming Soon! Mark your calendars for the new family movie night at Lake Claire Community Land Trust! Join us for favorite kid-friendly flicks in the great outdoors. Kid-friendly snacks and socially distant spacing will be available. Movie Nights will be monthly on second Saturdays from May 8 through October 9. Stay tuned! Details will be



posted on the Land Trust community news board at the Arizona Ave. cul-de-sac entrance.

## Nature at the Land Trust

Hi folks, this is Dawn, the emu and duck caretaker next to the Land Trust. The turtles are back from their hibernation at the bottom of the pond! You can go online and buy turtle food to feed them; they will be out all summer. Also, opposite the pond there are now steps and signs to go see the two goats, Pebbles and Bam Bam.

Big Lou the Emu is doing fine. As always he loves your visits and treats. But we must be strict about what he can safely eat, so read the sign on his fence before feeding him. Please do not feed him leaves or berries from the Land Trust since we don't know what made him seriously

sick last time.

Last year, we lost the smaller duck, Eddie. Something injured him in the night, and he died the next day. Eddie, bless his little duck soul, was a bully to Aidan, so I don't think Aidan misses him. But birds are flock animals, and I think Aidan would like another duck friend. If you know of someone who has a lonely duck, or if you know where I could get a gentle duck for Aidan, let me know. Thanks!

For all the Land Trust animals,  
Dawn  
[dawnaura12@gmail.com](mailto:dawnaura12@gmail.com)  
or 678-643-5671



Join the LCCLT Board on April 11 (and the 2nd Sunday Every Month) 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Zoom

### Continued from p. 10

Community is a give-and-take relationship. It involves not only sharing the benefits, but accepting some degree of shared responsibility as well. In our community, that can take many forms. For instance, you might drop in at our next Board meeting, whether as an interested observer or an active contributor. This is ultra-easy at present, with our meetings only a Zoom link away, predictably scheduled for the 2nd Sunday every month; this month, that's **April 11**. Until Covid, Board meetings have always been open to the community. Now that we have a little Zoom practice under our belts, we are eager to open them up again.

The current Board has settled on Sunday mornings, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., as the most likely time to reach a quorum for decision-making under our bylaws. But we do revisit that from time to time. We are well aware that meeting at that time excludes churchgoers, and we periodically check in with the neighborhood to see if we are discouraging any would-be participants who have a prior commitment on Sunday mornings. Please let us know if changing our meeting time would make a difference to you. You can write me any time, on this or any topic, at [secretary@LCCLT.org](mailto:secretary@LCCLT.org).

If you have a particular interest, on the other hand, you might prefer to skip the Board meetings and join a committee—Grounds, Events, Communications, Planning, Governance, and Fundraising & Programming. Committee meetings also take place on Zoom, but usually in the evenings. We are in particular need of folks with skills in finance, grant-writing, and “I.T.”

If you're not a “meeting person,” or you already have too many meetings on your calendar, “sweat equity” never goes out of style. Community Work Days are temporarily on hold, but the weeds still need pulling, the paths need wood chips, the structures need occasional repairs or restaining. Individuals or families can contact our Grounds Chair, Brynan Hadaway ([brynan1865@gmail.com](mailto:brynan1865@gmail.com)), to set up a work shift that fits your schedule. You might also consider adopting a particular area of the Trust to maintain.

If your calendar is simply full, your financial support is equally crucial during our long moratorium on musical fundraising. Only \$10 a year makes you an official “Land Trust supporter,” but a Land Trust lover might want to do more, at whatever level of support suits your budget. Some current supporters have their contributions set up to be monthly.

Use the link at the bottom of any page of our website to check out our donation page. We also use Venmo (LakeClaire-CommunityLandTrust), and accept checks made out to “LCCLT,” at 270 Arizona Avenue, or directly in the mailbox in the Arizona cul-de-sac.

If you're not sure where to plug in, add our **Annual Meeting** to your calendar—this year, **Sunday, June 11**, at 1 p.m., probably on Zoom. This is a yearly celebration we host for the neighborhood, including a dialogue session where we'll answer your questions and request your honest feedback. It is a great way to find out more about the Land Trust, our roots and aspirations, our current situation, and where you might fit into our community. You can also join our email list on any page of our website, [LCCLT.org](http://LCCLT.org), for updates and announcements.

As I write this I am in the midst of re-reading *The Healing Wisdom of Africa*, by Malidoma Patrice Somé, an elder of the Dagara tribe in West Africa who happens to hold degrees from Brandeis University and the Sorbonne. Near the end of the book I came across these comments on the meaning of community, especially in an individualistic society like ours: “Community takes many forms in

Western culture, and most of them are struggling for their very survival... People are looking for a place where their individuality will be honored, where their personal gifts can be freely made available to serve the greater good... The character of any true community can be seen only when each of its members has been awakened fully and allowed to reveal his or her innate gifts and genuine self. The sum of all these unique identities then becomes the character and identity of the community.”

The Land Trust has always been the kind of community that relies on individuals freely contributing what they have to give, in whatever form that takes. We owe a great debt to the neighbors who took on the challenge of acquiring and preserving an acre and a half of prime real estate back in the 1980s, and then stubbornly transformed it into paradise. We have inherited from them a different kind of challenge: to create a sustainable community that will endure as long as the land itself. But the goal, and the point, are still the same. That generations of kids to come will have a magical place to visit where they can form a lasting relationship with nature, experience the heart-space called community, and absorb a sense of inner belonging they can carry with them anywhere in the world.



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate.

This month we feature the contest winners, the new contest, and Sawyer Klehr's Geography column.

Sawyer lives on Hardendorf, is seven, and is studying via home-school right now. He wants you to know the contest is open to kids AND adults!

We thank all the Lake Claire children who read and contribute to the Kids' Page each month. Add

your creativity to this page! Submit your work or your suggestions to editor@lakeclaire.org, by APRIL 15 for the next issue of the newspaper, which will be the MAY issue.

### Jammin' Geography

My name is Sawyer Klehr, and this occasional column in the Clarion is about geography. I will give you facts about a country, and you will guess which country. Whoever emails the answer first is the winner, and gets to pick the country for the next Jammin' Geography. (You can't win two times in a row). Please email your answer to Sawyer at: education@lakeclaire.org. Adults may enter, too, but in the case of a tie, the kid wins!

Here is the new challenge, with the country chosen by Marnix, the last winner:

1. I have over 1,200 islands, isles, and inlets, but only 48 are lived on.
  2. My currency is called kuna, meaning marten, (which comes from the medieval trading of pelts of the animal marten).
  3. 10% of my country's land is made up of parks.
  4. The Pula Arena is the only preserved amphitheater with a 4-sided tower from the Roman Empire.
  5. I have 5 neighboring countries!
  6. In 297 A.D. I became home to 12 Egyptian Sphinxes. Only one sphinx remains.
  7. Many of my cities were once built by Venetians.
  8. Rovinj, a city in my country, in medieval times was a walled island, because it gave protection from pirates and the plague.
  9. I am located on the Adriatic Sea.
  10. I am home to a breed of dogs called Dalmatians, dating back to the 17th century.
- Which country am I?



Hayden and Drew

### Contest Winners

We had a tie this month among Clifton and Marlbrook residents: Roman Vinciquerra is 8 years old and is in Grade 3 at Mary Lin. He lives on Clifton Road, and he found the "daylight savings time" graphic on Page 9 of the March issue. Then less than a minute later, we heard from Hayden and Drew Pittman, who live on Marlbrook. Hayden is 7 years old and Drew is 5. Hayden goes to Mary Lin, and Drew goes to Frazer. I believe everyone

is still working remotely, though, but I forgot to ask. They are all obviously Clarion fans, since they found the answer so quickly.

Congrats, Drew, Hayden, and Roman, and thanks for participating. You won the contest over a VAST number of Lake Claire kids who participate every month in the contest on the Clarion Kids' Page. Your prize is your picture in the Clarion; now you are famous, since the Clarion is delivered to 1500 homes plus posted online. We hope your parents enjoy hanging it on the refrigerator and sending to grandparents.

Attention other Lake Claire kids—Add your name to the list of winners in the future. To all of those kids who didn't win, many of you came close this time. Please do keep reading this page, and keep playing. See our new contest at left

### NEW CONTEST!

APRIL! April showers bring May flowers, they say, and there are already beautiful flowers continuing to bud throughout Lake Claire. April's birth flowers are the daisy and the sweet pea. There are a plethora of holidays and observances that focus on health awareness, cuisine, the arts and reading, and community service. For example, wear blue to support Autism Awareness, plant a vegetable garden for National Garden Month, organize a poetry reading for Poetry Month, volunteer for a good cause for Volunteer Week, or plant a tree for Arbor Day, all in the name of April! Some special days are month-long observances with regional events throughout the country; others are week-long celebrations centered around a theme. AND, in April comes Earth Day. Hopefully this year, it will be possible to go out and observe it in some normal ways, performing acts of service, such as planting trees, picking up roadside trash, conducting various programs for recycling and conservation, and using recyclable containers for snacks. But likely we still need to keep "social distance."

You could still honor the day by doing all these things year-round! Our hidden graphic this month is a picture denoting Earth Day. Take a minute to find it somewhere in this issue. The winner/winners will have their pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number where you find it, including your name, age, school, street, and grade, and a photo of yourself. (Please tell your parents to send large picture files, 1mb+.)

Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row.

For extra credit, tell us what you will do in honor of Earth Day or any other day mentioned above. The extra-credit prize is that you'll be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. The deadline is APRIL 15. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.



Roman