



Go on a Road Trip!

by Boyd Baker

Parenting is not for the faint-hearted. Nobody tells you this when you are a young, fertile, married couple. Even if you're not fertile, you think, "How hard can this be? I run a team of 7 for a multi-national company." Or, "I'm a small businessperson dealing with customers, government, and tax issues every day. It can't be harder than this." Well, you're wrong.

As I've said to many over the years, "Good luck. It's like going to war. You can't describe it to anyone or forecast what it will be like. Only in the eyes of vets will you see the knowing look of having been in the trenches with babies, toddlers, or young ones. Now I do not mean to diminish our brave soldiers at all. They are superior beings in their sacrifice. Please don't write hate mail. I'm just saying that parenting is unlike anything you can ever plan or predict.

Covid isn't a fair assessment of how we use our time but we, as a family, were lucky enough in June to have the chance to take a road trip up the east coast. That meant that two parents, and a 20- and a 17-year-old would all be in an SUV for multiple hours many days for two weeks. The fact that our 20-year-old even agreed to go with us was the deal closer. We figured this could be our last real family road trip.

Now, I will say that we have been "road trippers" for many years. We

took our first road trip in a van when we needed to celebrate my wife's grandmother, Alice Close, by spreading her ashes in Boston Harbor (officially pronounced BAA-stun HAA-buh). While most of Wendy's family flew up, the Bakers bought a Honda Odyssey, learned the joys of the minivan, toured Washington, D.C., ate Philly cheesesteaks, walked around Boston, and ultimately, dipped our toes in Maine's chilly waters.

Since our daughter was 5 when we took our first trip, she only knew of that trip through pictures. She wanted the experience and memories only a teenager can create. So, we packed up an SUV (not nearly as good as a minivan) and headed toward Maine in mid-June. Our goal: just get to Maine at some point. It was a goal allowing us to wend and wind our way up the east coast with no set timeline. Washington, D.C., was closed to tourist traffic (Smithsonian, how we missed you), so we pivoted to staying in Baltimore, which is an amazing waterfront town—especially with their Edgar Allan Poe gravesite and funky Fells Point neighborhood.

We left Baltimore with one over-riding goal—cheesesteaks! Our route included meeting some friends who live in Philly. They indulged us by meeting at Geno's Steaks and Pat's King of Steaks. If you know nothing about cheesesteaks, these are the idols many look up to. The fact that



they are literally across the street from each other is a rare worldly blessing. You can get one from each and sit down to your own taste test so easily. The fact that you're standing in line with a biker gang from NY only adds extra flavor to the day. And our consensus: Pat's are the best!

Our next stop was the pinnacle, and most expensive, of family road trips: New York City. There we camped out for three days doing the unthinkable to me—family bike rides on city streets! Sounds crazy, I know, but it was really easy, fun, and an inexpensive way to get around that great city (see picture above). We took in the Statue of Liberty, M&Ms store, Top of

the Rock, various bagel shops, Little Italy, 9/11 Memorials, Times Square, Chinatown, the Met, exploring Strawberry Fields, and so much more. Not to forget arguing the qualities of the perfect bagel. Being a home baker, I was excited to visit Dominique Ansel's bakery and taste a cronut firsthand. It was quite the revelation. The city was bustling and awakening from the 2020 year; having been there before, I knew NYC was not at full tilt. It seemed like it was closer to 50-75% of what it usually is.

Just taking our kids to new cities and watching them learn to navigate

Cont. on p. 6

Recycling Tip of the Month

by Stephen Wing

The Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) keeps expanding its list of accepted materials. Recent additions include plastic drinking straws; cigarette butts; corrugated plastic yard signs; hard plastics #4 and #6 (which can be mixed together) and #5, which includes most yogurt tubs; and "flat glass," such as windows, aquariums, and auto windshields, which have chemicals additives that don't mix with food-grade jars and bottles; unfortunately, this does not include

mirrors. Window frames must be removed before recycling.

CHaRM also still accepts styrofoam (must be bagged), porcelain fixtures, used cooking oil, tires, mattresses, medications, glass bottles and jars (which the City of Atlanta **accepts, but does not recycle**), any kind of battery except alkaline, paint, electronics and "electrics" (anything that runs on electricity). "Sheet plastic" is a category that includes stretchwrap, shrinkwrap, and any plastic bag that is clean, dry, free of tape, and stretch-

able—no chip bags, etc.; also must be bagged). They take the usual paper, corrugated cardboard, metal cans, #1 and #2 hard plastic, as well as working items that can be re-used, such as bicycles or musical instruments.

CHaRM is operated by Live-Thrive Atlanta, a nonprofit funded by grants, donations, and fees, so it's important to make a donation each time you go, if you can. Items considered to be hazardous waste, such as computer monitors, fluorescent bulbs, and chemicals, cost CHaRM

money to recycle, so you will have to cover those fees up front. They also provide a document shredding service for a fee.

CHaRM is located at 1110 Hill St. in Chosewood Park, just across the Beltline from Grant Park. They no longer require masks, but you must make an appointment at their website, livethrive.org/charm.

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Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

The Clarion Newspaper (and its predecessor Neighbors Monthly Newsletter and its predecessor Lake Claire Neighbors Flyer) has been written, edited, and distributed by volunteers since 1989.

Calendar items are as of press time mid July. We encourage you to check websites for other safe activities that may have opened up.

~Editor

August Calendar

1 & 8 Horizon Theatre, *How I Became A Pirate!* Join us for a swash-buckling crew of musical pirates in our outdoor space, based on the Melinda Long's hit children's book, a sea-faring musical that follows young Jessica and a swashbuckling band of goofy pirates on their hunt to bury treasure. Bring chair/blanket/tarp/plastic and a picnic or snacks for a family outing. Outside food and drink are welcome. Sunday, Aug 1, 5:30 p.m., and Sunday, Aug 8, 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. See horizontheatre.com. Seating/picnic set-up opens 30 minutes before showtimes.

6 Dekalb History Center exhibits are back, featuring the history of Avondale Estates. See article Page 3.

7 Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle, 8 to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Please help spread the word. (See article Page 10.)

11 Actor's Express begins the production of *Red Speedo* by Lucas Hnath. Running through September 5, a champion swimmer's future is at stake. Written by the acclaimed author of *A Doll's House Part 2*. Note: reduced capacity, reserved seating. See actors-express.com.

14 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Led by Trees Atlanta. Pre-registration required. Space is limited. See article Page 3, and sign up at frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

17 Dekalb History Center—Architectural Tour (Walking)—learn about the architecture of Decatur's historic gems, spanning 1830 to 1965. The tour is outdoors with a total walking distance of about one mile, and lasts about an hour and a half. Meet in the Historic DeKalb Courthouse lobby for the start of the tour. Tours will happen rain or shine! See www.dekalbhistory.org/

19 Lake Claire monthly meeting, via Zoom. Third Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m. To receive e-mails about Lake Claire and reminders of upcoming meetings, please sign up at lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/. Lake Claire's current info at lakeclaire.org.

21 Land Trust Community Work Day, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the third Saturday of every month. Pizza follows. See article Page 10.

31 Dekalb History Center, Lunch & Learn, author Quayle Reed re "Outstanding Black Women of Yalobusha County." See www.dekalbhistory.org

Calendar entries for September issue to editor@lakeclaire.org by August 18.

As the Sept. Clarion might not be in time, mark your calendars now for: Thurs., Sept. 2 Indian Food to benefit the Land Trust! See article Page 11.



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Bits and Pieces

1. Backyard Pick-Up Service

The City of Atlanta Department of Public Works (DPW), Solid Waste Service, offers backyard service to senior residents who are 70 years of age or older, live alone, and are physically incapable of placing their garbage at the curb. A person must present a licensed physician's certified statement stating such person is physically incapable of placing the garbage at the curb and proof of their age.

City of Atlanta trucks must be able to enter the driveway for collection, and the backyard must be accessible to DPW personnel; otherwise, backyard service cannot be provided.

If eligible based on the above criteria, submit proof of age and physician's certified statement by fax to 404-546-9073 or via email to pwsettlements@atlantaga.gov. If not eligible, one may pay for the service. Info at the website.

2. Lake Claire Artwork/Images—Reminder

We appreciate the donation of artwork and photographs for fundrais-

ing for Lake Claire Neighbors; we would use them on the LCN website, in the Clarion, and on merchandise to be offered for sale to the public. The art should be suitable for all ages, and we accept children's artwork, such as drawings, pets, flowers, gardens, etc. Of particular interest:

- Photographs (color, black & white, or sepia) of landmarks, landscapes, nature subjects, architectural structures, etc. in our neighborhood or nearby.
- Artwork that will inspire, uplift, be fun, have good vibes, send positive messages.

The size of digital files should be from 1600 x 1200 pixels minimum. See some of the works here: lakeclaire.pixels.com. Please contact Pen Sherwood, your fundraising VP, for more info at fun@lackeclair.org.

3. Frazer Work Day

Join the Frazer Center and Trees Atlanta in our ongoing, long-term project of restoring our precious old-growth forest. No experience is necessary. Staff will provide training and

guidance. Projects include removal of exotic invasive plants, mulching, trail maintenance, replanting native species, and erosion control.

Teens 13-17 are welcome to volunteer if accompanied by an adult. Frazer Center relies heavily on our volunteers to help maintain the Frazer old-growth forest so that we can continue to serve children and adults with and without disabilities. Thank you for caring about our neighborhood greenspace and inclusive communities! More information will be provided with sign-up. Pre-registration is required. Help restore and maintain our beloved neighborhood old-growth forest by signing up at frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

4. Dekalb History Center

The DeKalb History Center officially reopened in mid-July. Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays 9-5, and archives are open by appointment. See dekalbhistory.org/exhibits-dekalb-history-center-museum/. The Haven of Health and Happiness opened August 6 and is ongoing now; this is a history of the Avondale Estates neighborhood. It brings to light details that were forgotten or simply left out of the city's narrative. See dekalbhistory.org/

exhibits-dekalb-history-center-museum/. Avondale Estates, Georgia, was established in 1924. Originally called Ingleside, Avondale developed quickly from mostly farmland into a "home lovers paradise."

They are also happy to announce that the Decatur Architectural Tours are back. On this tour, they walk through the neighborhoods of Decatur and highlight some of the architectural gems and their histories. Interested parties should visit the Dekalb History Center website for more information.

5. Dad's Garage

Woo-hoo! Dad's Garage is now officially open! They are excited to be back in the theatre and performing live for audiences once again. Thank you for your support during a transition back to making folks laugh, as often as possible. Schedule for the foreseeable future: Fridays, 8 p.m. *Scandal!—Under the sea*, and a new submarine-themed set built onstage! Saturdays, 8 p.m.: *TheatreSports—Dad's longest running show!* Join for this short form improv competition! Go to the website for tickets; not yet at full capacity, so tickets sell out fast: dadsgarage.com.

Live Music

Sunday, Aug. 1	Phish	Ameris Amp
Tuesday, Aug. 3	Lisa Fischer	City Winery
Tuesday, Aug. 3	Between the Buried and Me	Masquerade
Friday, Aug. 6	Subterranea	The Caverns, Pelham, TN
	(Papadosio/Dopapod etc)	
Friday, Aug. 6	Rise Against	Tabernacle
Fri. & Sat., Aug. 6-7	Bright Eyes	The Eastern
Saturday, Aug. 7	The Mountain Goats	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, Aug. 7	Kings of Leon	Lakewood Amp
Tuesday, Aug. 10	David Gray	Chastain
Friday, Aug. 13	Rod Stewart/Cheap Trick	Ameris Amp
Friday, Aug. 13	The Cadillac Three	Variety Playhouse
Friday, Aug. 13	Lynyrd Skynyrd	Lakewood Amp
Saturday, Aug. 14	Wilco/Sleater-Kinney	Chastain
Saturday, Aug. 14	The Lone Bellow	Variety Playhouse
Sunday, Aug. 15	John Legend	Chastain
Tuesday, Aug. 17	James Taylor/Jackson Browne	Infinite Energy Ctr, Duluth
Friday, Aug. 20	Alanis Morissette/Grbaage/Liz Phair	Ameris Amp
Saturday, Aug. 21	Blackberry Smoke	Ameris Amp
Friday, Aug. 20	Todd Snider	Variety Playhouse
Sat. & Sun., Aug. 21-22	Tedeschi Trucks Band	Coolray Field
Tuesday, Aug. 24	Santana/Earth, Wind & Fire	Lakewood Amp
Thursday, Aug. 26	Kesha	The Roxy
Thursday, Aug. 26	Harry Connick Jr	Chastain
Friday, Aug. 27	Keller Williams	The Caverns, Pelham, TN
Friday, Aug. 27	Chris Stapleton/Cheryl Crow/Kendell Marvel	Ameris Amp
Fri. & Sat., Aug. 27-28	Mother's Finest	City Winery
Saturday, Aug. 28	Chris Stapleton/Cheryl Crow/Kendell Marvel	Lakewood Amp
Saturday, Aug. 28	Minnesota	Terminal West
Saturday, Aug. 28	Drivin' N' Cryin'/Arrested Development/Cracker	Tabernacle
Saturday, Aug. 28	Rumours	Buckhead Theatre
Sunday, Aug. 29	Goo Goo Dolls	Chastain
Sunday, Aug. 29	The Mavericks	The Caverns, Pelham, TN
Sunday, Aug. 29	Kiss	Lakewood Amp
Tuesday, Aug. 31	Primus	The Roxy

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Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (aka Carol Vanderschaaf)

Here we are, all wild ones. I, at least, am glad to be inland on a hill, far from the Atlantic Shore and from any fires, new sentiments for me who has always loved the ocean and the woods. Right now, it is a little scary to see what's happening and what, if anything, can be done about it. Well, let us contemplate our 'hood and see what is happening nearby.

Miriam H. reports, "I am taking part in the Atlanta firefly project. For two days in June and two more in July, I went to my backyard at sunset and counted the fireflies for 60 seconds, for 3 times. There are questions of interest, such as if one sprays for mosquitoes, mows grass, composts leaves, uses artificial lights, etc. One helpful thing that people could do pretty easily is turn off artificial lights, especially flood lights. If people are concerned about security, motion detection lights are better. Or use lower wattage, colored lights. The project will be over before this August issue comes out, but for more information go to www.atlantafireflyproject.org. [Note from Flora: Sounds like a great project! I saw my first firefly of the year on June 20, and it brought back many memories of childhood.]

Sara G. reports, "the pollinators have been very busy all around the neighborhood, with sightings including a new, non-native type of bee, the sculptured resin bee, *v. sculpturalis*. These bees are native to Asia and are related to our native leaf-cutter bees. One difference between the non-native species and our native ones is that *M. sculpturalis* are social, while our native leaf-cutter bees are solitary. I first observed a small "swarm" of these bees around an existing carpenter bee hole. After a couple of

days, they were gone. Sculptured resin bees use holes bored by carpenter bees to lay their eggs. The UGA Extension Program is studying these bees, and they need your help in reporting sightings of them using the app *iNaturalist* or by emailing Becky Griffin at beckygri@uga.edu (read more at extension.uga.edu/story/8633/Sculptured-Resin-).

"As far as fauna," Bernard S reports, "I went to visit a friend in North Georgia and saw a huge wasp. He called it a "German wasp." He also left his shop door open for ventilation and later found a copperhead enjoying his floor space. He took it (carefully) into the forest and released it. As far as flora, I will say that the eating is great with all the rain and cooler weather. For the initiated, I will just say it is the letter C (I don't want the hordes rushing to the woods).

"I've seen numerous rabbits, both on this side of McLendon and the other," Ilene S. tells us. "Most noteworthy is the wonderful show the fireflies have been putting on in Frazer Woods. They are more nu-



Megachile sculpturalis, the sculptured resin bee or giant resin bee, 3/4 to 1 inch long



merous than I have seen in several years and are under threat from habitat loss and pesticides. Also, lots of hawks and hummingbirds."

Alexander F. confesses, "I've finally gotten around to sending another update. Covid created a regular weekend event of our family exploring the many intown forests and parks, but recently a neighborhood walk (down Arizona Ave across Dekalb near the soccer fields) showed me something in the distance crossing the street, rather intently but slowly. At first, I thought it was a pregnant possum. When I got closer, I realized it was a huge snapping turtle! [See picture above.] I'm not sure where he came from; the field by the transmission tower is flooded, but he must have come from a more permanent body of water, perhaps that lake across from the bread factory on La France?"

"In any case, I brought my Nature Conservancy neighbor Wade over, and he moved him or her back across the gate to where the flooded water was, but when I checked back 30 minutes later, the turtle was back at the gate of the soccer fields; clearly something (laying eggs, a mate?)

calling him or her to that direction. The next morning, I checked again and it was gone; hopefully it found a safe space with sufficient water.

"Other wildlife I've seen recently include a small vole right outside our house near the Land Trust, a beautiful Five-Lined Skink at Constitution Lakes, and a rare elk (Rocky Mountain elk reintroduced after the native Eastern Elk went extinct) right outside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park."

And Meredith W. says, "Aside from the usual birds, bunnies, squirrels, deer, etc., I enjoyed watching the goslings grow up at Candler Park Lake. I've also been enjoying the lightning bugs and the occasional giant leaf-footed bug or Eastern eyed click beetle. We saw a blue grosbeak while hiking down at Cochran Mill Park, a coyote at Emory's Lullwater Preserve, and a very large turtle found its way under our car. Fortunately, my husband saw it crawling under before he got in the car, so he was able to move her before any damage was done. (See picture on page 7.)

Cont. on p.7

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Lori White

Thanks to BSA Troop 101, and many super volunteers and neighbors, Clifton's Garden is thriving. We are sure you have seen the growth as you pass by!

We are excited to have home grown beans, squash, kale, corn, tomatoes, okra, watermelons, and peppers. Our guests are eating well, thanks to the hard work of so many community friends!

Getting involved with CSM makes a real difference. For ways you can help, including dropping off food, helping prepare meals, and other tasks, please see www.cliftonsanctuary.com.



Go on a Road Trip!

Continued from Page 1

the city streets or the subway system is pretty rewarding. Gives me hope that they can manage in the Big Ol' World outside of our intown bubble.

Leaving NYC, we kept heading north and made it to Portland for a night's stay. Traffic was more than I've ever seen, and I'm guessing it's a testament to everyone's desire to get away and have some summer fun. Unfortunately, that meant many unexpected traffic snarls and extra hours in our cozy SUV.

Portland, Maine, with good lobster rolls but just ok town, was followed by Freeport (home of L.L. Bean and outlets galore), Boothbay Harbor (awesome botanical gardens), and Bar Harbor (BAH-HA-BAH) to round out our Maine experience. Of course, being so close to Acadia National Park we had to hike up Cadillac Mountain and take in the most majestic views of gorgeous mountains and beautiful seacoasts at the same time. It is worth the 4-mile hike rather than driving to the top, as did many that we met there.

A side note about road trips: you should do some prior research by asking around, reading, or scouring the internet for any fascinating side trips or roadside attractions. These can be the most rewarding and definitely the most interesting photo ops of the trip. Wife found out this artist named Thomas Dambo had created trolls for the Coastal Maine Botani-

cal Gardens in Boothbay Harbor. Though it didn't seem like a big deal to me and the kids, my wife was laser-focused on making sure she saw these trolls on our trip. To be fair, I was amazed by the botanical gardens in this tiny town and the incredible sculptures this artist created in harmony with nature. Really made the trip extra special. Check them out at www.mainegardens.org/events-exhibits/giant-trolls/.

With our key goal of reaching Maine met, we were free to explore. I figured we should at least try to reach the easternmost part of our country, so off to Lubec, Maine, we went, where they have the last candy-striped lighthouse in the U.S. This sleepy little town of less than 1500 is just what you'd expect. It is a very picturesque, quiet, somewhat-sad little town. I mean sad only in the sense that it had more commerce and activity. Smoking herring and canning sardines was what Lubec was known for. As you might imagine, considering how few tins of either you have in your cupboard, that industry has all but dried up, but Lubec still exists. From the town's main street, we could see Canada and the bridge allowing no visits due to Covid. This is a cute town with kind people and a place I wouldn't have minded staying for a couple of days to just relax and breathe in the salt air.



Boyd's family in Lubec

No one could decide where to go next, so we retreated south to spend a couple of days in Boston and soak up the history. From there we took true advantage of road-tripping and visited a friend who has an out of the way cabin in Virginia. We got to reconnect with a good friend and have a respite from the fast food and hotels we'd been living off of for almost two weeks.

Back to life in Atlanta came fast and furious as we had to regather our furry family and take care of all

the home chores we had neglected for two weeks, but it was well worth it. A long road trip gave us all family memories to last a lifetime. Having both kids older meant they could experience and remember our travels and actually give us new perspectives on these places and adventures.

So, if you've never really tried it, or thought it would be just too much, I plead with you to make a plan for your next vacation to be a road trip. There are so many great ones from Atlanta. Know that adventure awaits!



Dambo Trolls, Boothbay Harbor

The Great Georgia Pollinator Census: August 20-21

With summer here and these bee census dates getting closer, some of us are out in the garden looking at insects. You may see something like the beautiful insect here. Is it a bee or a fly? What category would you place it during a census count? To make things even more confusing,

some flies, like this syrphid fly, are bee "mimics." The chart at ggapc.org will help you tell the difference between bees and flies. With a bit of practice, you will be a pro at fly identification, and you might be surprised at how many flies you actually have in your yards.



Bee or Fly?

Lubec, Maine

by Beth Damon

Adding to what Boyd wrote on page 6 about Lubec, over several trips to Maine, I fell in love with Lubec, its majestic views, slower pace of life, and its mild temperatures. My doggie Taffy and I drove here (not as exciting a road trip as Boyd's, focused on getting here, but we had fun visiting my close friend/longtime Lake Claire resident Linda Maynard in Greensboro, and camping in scenic spots in Pa. and Freeport). Last month and this one, I have been enjoying getting to know the town more in-depth.

Among other resources, the Lubec Historical Society/Museum and McCurdy Smokehouse Museum (a museum in a former herring smokehouse, with a tour by an actual former worker in the smokehouse) are great and enjoyable ways for learning the town's rich history. For more than one hundred years, sardine canning was one of the mainstays of the economy of coastal Downeast Maine. From the 1880s to the end of the 20th century, Lubec and nearby Eastport were the twin centers of this fishery industry. The sardines canned there were really little herring, the same fish that provided the basis of another mainstay fishery industry in the area, smoking herring. They were a natural resource that supplied tasty fast food, means of employment, and the basis of profitable investment. The waterfronts of both towns provided ideal locations, and a working landscape of canneries, smokehouses, and other busi-

nesses on wharves grew up. It's a riveting history; if anyone has further interest, see lubec.mainmemory.net/page/782/display.html. Other industries in Lubec included cat food production (remember the fish), boatbuilding, agriculture, tanneries, gristmills, sawmills, shipyards, and sailmakers.

Lubec is proud of native son Myron Avery (1899–1952), who was a co-founder of the Appalachian Trail concept and the first "2000 Miler." Many "from away" who have heard of Lubec discovered it enroute to Campobello Island, New Brunswick (now open only to essential traffic, along with the rest of Canada). Franklin D. Roosevelt spent summers on the Island; the Roosevelt Campobello International Park serves as a memorial to FDR and a symbol of cooperation between the U.S. and Canada. The FDR International Bridge connects Lubec and Campobello. The townspeople of both enjoy many activities together, including a cross-border Canada-USA marathon (The Bay of Fundy International Marathon, a 12-mile run between lighthouses). It is a lot cooler to run than the July 4 AJC Peachtree Road Race! Another piece of Lubec trivia is that it has a sister city, Lübeck, Germany. Lubec and Lubbock, Texas, are both named after Lübeck.

Lubec boasts its quiet nature, beautiful vistas and deserted beaches (and I would add, a fantastic library), and of having no movie



Beth D.

theaters, shopping malls, fast-food restaurants (nor indeed many restaurants at all), or traffic lights (my 2 cents: they need some near the Canadian border, where "essential traffic" includes huge trucks going 60 mph in a 25-mph zone... they also have no cops!). There is one grocery store, no Home Depot, Lowes,

health-food stores (need Sevananda to open a northeastern branch), Trader Joe's, or live theatre venues (luckily, I got used to streaming them in 2020). I am enjoying the idyllic atmosphere immensely, though a *slight* adjustment for a "city girl."

Wild in LC

Continued from Page 5

"On the flora side, I found some paw paws near South Peachtree Creek. We planted a couple in our yard two years ago, but this was the first fruit I've seen in person. We did enjoy lots of blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries from our garden. We went to Brazil to visit my husband's family, and I swear there were more flowers blooming now (their wintertime) than when we've gone in their summer. We saw a few burrowing owls on several occasions in an abandoned, half-built building, and they were adorable."

Dorothy D. saw a juvenile black crowned night heron in Candler Park recently. On the same walk, she saw some chickens in a yard, also in the Candler Park 'hood. Earlier in the month she saw a barred owl sitting on her roof. A very big bird! She sent a picture of the bird, but we couldn't



Turtle under Meredith's husband's car

print it; FYI, it looks more like the Cheshire Cat than a barred owl. And for the main event, Dorothy saw a pileated woodpecker in a little park on Lullwater Road. "Not in our neigh-

borhood, but close," she noted. Wow!

As we move on to the end of this wild summer, let's enjoy the world and the words of e.e. cummings, "The world is mud-luscious and puddle-

wonderful": what a wonderful world!

Flora always welcomes contributions to Wild. Please send them to my excellent assistant, C. Vanderschaaf, c/o me at: floweryfauna@gmail.com.

For Lake Claire from Neighborhood Church

by Revs. Anjie and Andy Woodworth

Hi Lake Claire Neighbors!

It has been 16 months since we have had a worship service in our building. We've been through so many cycles of emotions during our season of worshipping fully virtually: grief, confusion, exhaustion, joy, contentment, acceptance. The good news is that we believe they all belong with God and in a supportive community like the one at Neighborhood Church. And we believe that all of who you are belongs, too. We are grateful for the ways so many of you have reached out to us during the pandemic and sent notes of encouragement or stopped by to say hi and share your stories on the porch! We have experienced what true, raw, authentic community can look like and feel humbled to get to be a part of your journeys.

Sharing stories is a huge part of living in community together. Everybody has a story and each person's story is unique and valid. Where have you seen this pandemic shift or add to your story? What are some behaviors or lessons you're hoping to hold onto even as we start to create structures that require less

distancing and more togetherness? Where have you seen goodness and hope in the midst of communal despair? What are you struggling to release or move past as we're understanding what it means to continue to grieve together? What does it look like to find a new pace of life after a year and a half of living in a world of so many unknowns? These are some of the kinds of questions we'll be diving into this fall as we continue worshipping and connecting with each other. We believe that each neighbor we meet is part of our ongoing story and narrative of connection and community as we move through each season together. We hope we'll get to connect and become intertwined parts of each other's stories soon!

Here are a few connection opportunities you're invited to join as we move towards more in-person experiences this fall:

August 1: Open House and Blessing of the Backpacks—a short moment of worship followed by a time to check out the building and meet some new neighbors over lunch;



August 15 and 29: In-Person Preview Worship Services—come worship with us in the Sanctuary while we get the feel of what it's like to be back in-person; online worship will be streamed as well!;

Sept. 12: Happy 5th Birthday, Neighborhood Church—come celebrate our fifth birthday (can you believe it?!) as we have our first full

in-person worship service of 2021 together in the Sanctuary. Weekly worship will continue both in-person and online at 11 a.m. moving forward! You can check out our website at neighborhoodchurchATL.com for more information! We hope to see you soon!

~Revs. Andy and Anjie Woodworth



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Dues for Lake Claire

Suggested annual neighborhood dues are \$20/year per household. Lake Claire banners are \$45; a package deal of dues/banner is only \$60! Have you ever wondered what happens with your dues? Please see the President's Message on Page 1 of the June/July issue, at lakeclaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Clarion-junejuly-2021-web.pdf.

Please specify when you pay dues if you do not wish to be listed in the newspaper. Pay at lakeclaire.org via the link OR with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to Eileen O'Neill, Treasurer, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107. Thank you to all these and others who have paid dues and/or contributed your time to our great neighborhood, Lake Claire! Since the May Clarion, the following folks paid dues.

Steven Bennett & William Old
Colleen L. Bittinger
Jentes Molnar
Ryan Gaylor
Allison Knowles
Anne Roberts
Christopher Covington
Jeffery Rosenberg
Paula Dressel
Michael Stewart
Katherine Gass
Valerie Sanders
Aviva Berman
Jeffery Sprain
Peter Olson



Pay at 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.



Hello – Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

Happy Birthday to:

8/1 Patricia Emerson, turns **87!** Wow, congrats, Patricia!! (She always says, "please put the age, as I am so glad to have made it!")

And a few neighbors a bit younger:

8/3 Jazz Melodie Sibille, turns 15, Ivy Place
8/5: Ally Bliss, turns 16 years old, Leonardo
8/13 Lyriq Gaspard Sibille, turns 9!—Ivy Place
8/16 Peter Belle, McLendon Avenue
8/18 Mark Haggerty, Harold Avenue

Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the next issue—September!—help make this series inclusive (editor@lakeclaire.org) by August 18

August into September in the Lake Claire Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton, knowltonew@earthlink.net

Welcome back to the Clarion gardening column after your summer break. I know you have been weeding and harvesting. Following some drought in May and June, July brought us plenty of old-fashioned summer thunderstorms, a welcome surprise after many different summers without them. August may be dry again, though, so keep your watering system, whether automatic or hand-held, up and running. If it is automatic, make sure it does not run during wet spells, does not fall on public sidewalks, and is set for the same watering days required by the city (even-numbered houses SaMW, odd ones SuTuTh) during droughts. That way you have nothing to change if we enter a dry period.

We are not farmers, fortunately, so we will not starve if our gardens fail. Every green tomato vanished to squirrels during a few days I was out of town; varmints gnawed into the blueberry frame and wreaked havoc. We are still picking beans and digging potatoes, however, and peppers and eggplants are ripening on healthy plants. Aim to plant what you love and what is hard to find in local supermarkets. This year, I planted German butterball potatoes because Yukon Gold had sold out,

and they are delicious cooked in a variety of ways.

Don't forget to order narcissus (jonquils, daffodils) from Brent and Becky's per Miriam Herbers' instructions in the June/July issue so that the Land Trust will get a percentage. Although they offer all the spring bulbs and summer bulbs, too, they began as narcissus specialists and have propagated many of their offerings.

Sow what will be your last crop of bush beans early this month, and summer squash may do better now than earlier in avoiding borer. Purchase brassica seedlings (kale, collards, broccoli, cabbage) at any garden center, and get them into the ground even if they need shading for a bit. If you do not have a prepared garden yet, use big pots with drainage holes and filled with container soil and some organic, general vegetable fertilizer because garden soil will compact too much in a pot. Instructions for making a new garden are in the March and April 2021 Clarions (online); next month I will talk about digging again. August and September are good times to identify the sunniest place for next year's vegetable beds because March/April will be sunny there too.

It is too late to start most brassicas from seed but not too late to sow perennial flower seeds. They will germinate, transplant to the garden this fall, and bloom by next summer. Some easy ones are coreopsis (not the annual), dianthus (pinks), *Echinacea purpurea* (coneflower), gaillardia (blanket-flower), monarda (bee balm), and rudbeckia. Gaillardia 'Arizona Sun' is so easy that it is a sin to spend money on plants. It comes in various hot colors, and I have liked the dull red that is not at all orange. Another flower that has worked for me is echinacea 'Cheyenne Spirit' that will flower the first season if you sow it indoors in winter. Perennial means that the plant will live more than a year, but that does not mean it is immortal. You can also sow plants that tend to be biennial here, like foxgloves, delphiniums, poppies, and sweet peas, but these need a cool area for growth before moving outside, and you might want to wait until fall to sow.

An important rule of gardening is never to cut down or prune something if you do not know its name. Whether you are a brand-new gardener or new to the South or just new to your

lot, you need to learn what you are handling. It might be valuable, even if you don't want it there, and could be sold. It might require special handling if you wish to move it. It might need pruning at a particular season so as not to destroy the flower buds. It might be invasive, and you need to learn how to get rid of it without seeding it all over your yard in the process. And, it might have ways of fighting back, requiring you to arm yourself ahead of removal. Just as a soldier needs to learn how to identify the enemy he is supposed to kill and avoid harming his comrades, so do you need to identify your friends in green out there.

Regardless of how you do it, spend more time outdoors. If heat is too much for you, greet the dawn! If mosquitoes bother you, apply repellent, empty any standing water, and use mosquito dunks in bird baths and water barrels. And don't forget the Great Georgia Pollinator Census on August 20 and 21. Access ggapc.org to find more information, such as insect ID descriptions, counting sheets, and their electronic newsletter. All you need is fifteen minutes and a flower. Tip: a large flat zinnia pleases everyone.

THE LAKE CLAIRE COMMUNITY

Drum Circles Are Back!

1st Saturday every month, starting Aug. 7, 8-11 p.m.

At long last, the Land Trust once again presents its famous Drum Circle, with Richard at the gate and Rusty handling the bonfire, just like old times. Well, almost: drumming will happen just once a month, on the first Saturday. As before, admission is free, but please donate if you can to help cover our costs, as well as maintenance and improvements at your favorite urban greenspace. Suggested donation: drummers \$1, spectators \$5, children free with parent. We appreciate your support!

As always, parking is limited at the Land Trust, so please walk, bike, or ride MARTA, car-pool, or park at Clifton Sanctuary (369 Connecticut Ave.), and walk over to minimize impact on our neighbors. Please do not park on adjoining streets; residents depend on street parking. Stay for our closing circle if you can, but please remember not to yell when the drumming ends, and to keep your voice low as you leave – neighbors may be sleeping. Spread the word, and let the wild rumpus resume!

Return of the Community Workday

3rd Saturday every month, starting Aug. 21, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The land has missed us! We'll have plenty to catch up on when the Land Trust's monthly Community Work Days re-convene this month. To dodge the heat, we will gather in

the morning and knock off for lunch at 1 p.m. What's for lunch? Pizza, of course! Please join us to pull weeds, spread wood chips on the paths, and more. If you liked the Land Trust be-

Eat Delicious Indian Food and Support the Land Trust (Again)

by Miriam Herbers

On **Thursday, Sept. 2**, the Idnani family is once again offering a take-out meal to benefit the Land Trust, donating 10% of their proceeds for all meals purchased for pickup in our neighborhood that day. The pickup location (in Lake Claire) will be given when your order is confirmed.

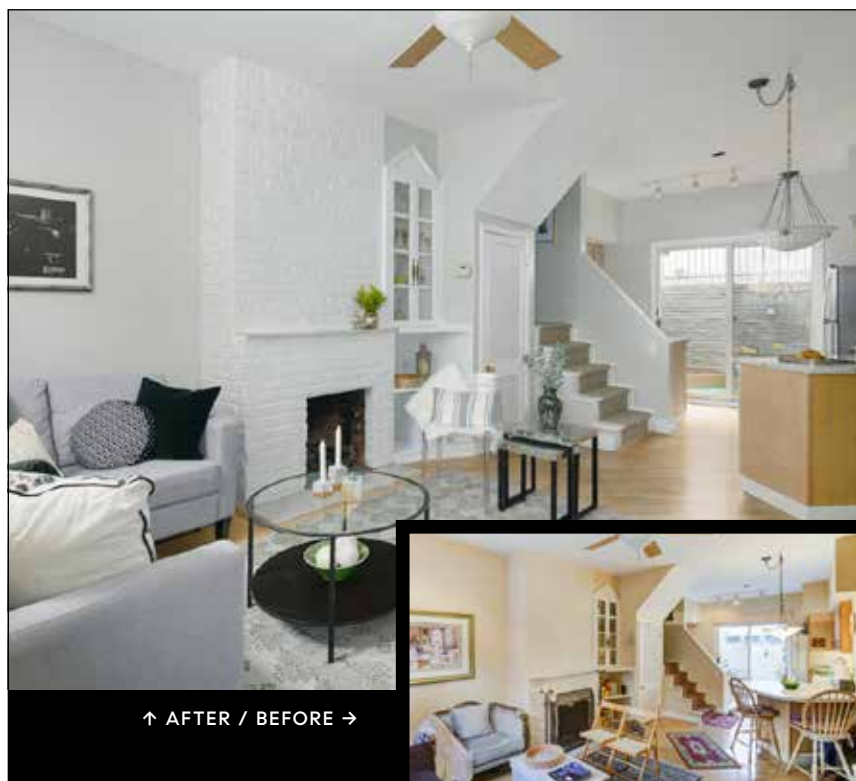
The Idnani brothers are the owners of NaanStop, an Indian restaurant with three locations where they proudly serve their mother's recipes. Each month they donate 10% of sales on certain days to a local nonprofit. Their first benefit for the Land Trust back in May was a great success, with many satisfied customers who are no doubt waiting for an encore. Neal Idnani has been bringing his family for nature walks on the Trust, and this is their gesture of thanks. The

Idnanis have been offering the same support to other nonprofits as well since the pandemic began. Please check out their full menu when you feel safe eating inside.

The meal feeds four, including two entrees, fresh baked naan bread, handmade samosas, basmati rice, and chutney. Vegan and meat entrees are available. Place your order at bit.ly/NSorderLC, any time between Wed. August 25 and 5 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 1, and it will be available for pickup between 5 and 5:45 p.m. on Thursday. Masks and social distancing will be required at the pick-up place in Lake Claire. "First come, first served," so get your orders in before they sell out! 10% of sales will be donated to the Lake Claire Community Land Trust.

fore, you'll feel a new sense of ownership when you invest your time and energy to make it your own. Find out

why we say you are the "community" in our name!



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LAND TRUST

Camera Class Great Success

At the end of June, former elementary school art teacher and professional photographer Brook Hewitt brought her “Camera Class for Kids” to the Land Trust. The class was very well received. One child said she wished she could do it every Sunday. Brook has promised to do another class later on.



How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways . . .

Support your local community greenspace! The Land Trust needs your donations (and any time you can volunteer) to keep going. Choose any or all options below.

1. Set up a monthly donation via PayPal at LCCLT.org; click “Donate,” at the bottom of any page.

2. Venmo: LakeClaire-CommunityLandTrust. (Use the QR code posted around the Trust.)

3. Mail a check made out to

“LCCLT” c/o Treasurer, 270 Arizona Ave., Atlanta GA 30307, or use the mailbox in the cul-de-sac.

4. AmazonSmile: choose LCCLT from the list of eligible nonprofits; Amazon donates a percentage of every purchase.

5. Brent & Becky’s Bulbs (www.bloominbucks.com): Choose the LT

on their drop-down menu of nonprofits, and we will receive 25% (!) of your payment for garden bulbs.

6. Include us in your will.

Land Trust Supporters—Have You Renewed? Anyone can be a Land Trust Supporter by donating \$10 a year. There is no maximum donation.

Care to Teach a Class?

If you have taught an outdoor class or workshop in the past, or have one in mind you would like to try, the Land Trust’s new Programming Committee wants to hear from you. Our goal is to offer at least one educational event each month to fulfill our mission as an educational community nonprofit. In June, we offered photographer Brook Hewitt’s Camera Class for Kids; in July, the Herbalista Health Network taught us how to make a health tonic called Fire Cider. Is your offering next? Contact us at info@LCCLT.org.

Jerry Jam Reminder

by Frani Green

We are happy to announce that our grand re-opening event at the Land Trust will be our Fall Fest/Jerry Jam on Saturday, October 9. Please keep your social calendar open for that date because by then, hopefully, it will feel safe to gather together to dance and play again as a community. We are looking forward to seeing you there! Meanwhile, we still need support from our neighbors for monetary purposes, since the maintenance of the land is our number one priority. Magic comes at a cost! Please donate and/or volunteer. We always need help.

Farewell Aidan, the last Land Trust Duck

by Dawn Aura

I’m very sad to let you all know that Aidan, our second mallard duck, who lived in the small pond, has died. His friend Eddie died last year after getting mysteriously injured in the night. Aidan had recently stopped eating and died of unknown causes, although we took him to the vet and also had a mobile vet come to the pond. The vet thought possibly cancer. Both Eddie and Aidan lived here for around 10 years. Mallards can live to 20 in captivity. Aidan was survived by Gray, the younger healthy one who we brought here for him after Eddie died. The mobile vet took Gray to her home where she has a large lake and 20 other ducks so that he wouldn’t be alone. I no longer have

the heart nor the energy to take care of more ducks, but they brought me peace gliding around gracefully, and were such good company, quacking conversationally all day. They will be missed not only by me, but by many visitors, especially the children.

There are still goats to be visited, and turtles to be fed. Go online or to Petco and buy some turtle food for the kids to feed them if you like. The overgrowth of duckweed in the large pond is not harmful, but we will be getting a boat and trying to remove it.

And of course there is Big Lou, sweetest Emu, to visit and spoil with treats of fruit. This is the time of year for his favorites, cantaloupe, honeydew, blueberries, and strawberries along with the grapes he gets regularly from us (but he doesn’t like watermelon!) Best not to feed him more than 1/2 pint at a time or he won’t eat his rice, beans, veggies, and salad! Please read the signs on the fence as to proper care when visiting him. By the time this goes to press, we may have had a work day to eliminate the duckweed. Thank you, and please love all the animals.

Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust . . .

...August:

Sat., Aug. 7 – Drum Circle, 8 to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike or carpool. Bring a friend! Please help spread the word. See article facing page.

Sat., Aug. 21 – Community Work Day, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pizza follows. See article facing page.

...And beyond August:

Thurs., Sept. 2 – Indian Food – see article facing page.

Sat., Oct. 2 – Jerry Jam festival, featuring the music of the Grateful Dead. See article above



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate. This month we feature Michael McGill, who has just turned 14 years old and will attend The New School in the fall. He lives on Delaware

and wrote about his family's fantastic vacation last month.

We thank Mike and 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@lake-claire.org, by **AUGUST 15** for the next issue of the newspaper, which will be September.



McGills in Alaska (Mike is 2nd from the right)

Vacation in Alaska

by Michael McGill

For this summer vacation, I went to Alaska with my family. It was very enjoyable, and I got to see Grizzly Bears in their natural habitat. We visited a river where the bears were catching salmon in the Katmai Peninsula. It was very cool to see, and the bears would sometimes completely submerge themselves under the water.

I learned that the bears could eat up to 75 pounds of salmon per day. I also got to see mother bears with their cubs, which were very cute! It was a very enjoyable experience, and I greatly appreciate it.



Tucker

Contest Winners

We had two winners who tied for this issue: Jett Friedman (first place, by a "hair") and Tucker Hanlon. Tucker is six years old, a rising first grader at Mary Lin who lives on Tuxedo Avenue. Jett is nine years old, lives on Delaware Avenue, and is going into the fourth grade at Mary Lin.

Tucker also tackled the extra credit challenge; we said, in honor of World Environment Day, to tell us how you help to improve the environment. Tucker said, "To improve the environment, I don't litter, and don't pollute." Tucker, for your prize, you are welcome to be featured in a Clarion future issue!

Congrats, Jett and Tucker, and thanks for participating. You two won the contest over a VAST number of Lake Claire kids who participated. 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. 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 above.

New Contest

August holidays include Friendship Day (8/1), National Mahjong Day (8/1), "Grab Some Nuts Day" (8/2), National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day (8/4—who knew?), National Underwear Day (8/5), and National Fresh Breath Day (8/6). Find a chocolate chip cookie somewhere in this issue, then send your guess in an e-mail to editor@lakeclair.org, identifying its page number and 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 think about any of those other days or which ones are funny to you. 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 AUGUST 15. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.



Jett