With Georgia’s General Assembly set to convene in January, the Druid Hills Civic Association (DHCA) has undertaken due diligence on the cityhood and annexation issue. It has not adopted an official position. For many months, however, statements by its president, Justin Critz, have held a sense of urgency for residents: “act or be acted upon.” The community can have a say, he has emphasized, or be told what to do.

For much of this year the question on the table for Druid Hills residents encompassed three options: annexing to the City of Atlanta, joining the proposed City of Briarcliff, and remaining in unincorporated DeKalb County. The decisions made now, prior to January 2015, will dramatically affect the future of the historic neighborhood. A survey by the DHCA, to be mailed to 3,700 neighborhood residents, will play a critical part.

“I don’t know that the survey results will be binding,” Critz explained, “insofar as I don’t know that we will receive a clear mandate. We will certainly use the results to help guide our continuing efforts to work for the good of the community.”

Recent efforts to educate neighborhood residents have included a comprehensive, five-page letter, “Cityhood & Annexation Options and Their Effects on Taxes and Schools,” now posted on the DHCA website. Community meetings have been plentiful, including those with city and county officials. City of Briarcliff representatives made a presentation at the DHCA’s September board meeting.

The biggest issues are schools and taxes, Critz commented. “The schools issue is still not completely settled but at least we have some idea of the direction it could go. Taxes are a little more definitively settled. City of Atlanta taxes and current unincorporated DeKalb taxes are not that different. We don’t know what taxes would be in any new city, but leaders of those initiatives have pledged to not raise taxes. The real unknown on taxes is what would happen if a new city is formed to our north and Druid Hills remains in unincorporated DeKalb County,” he added.

Atlanta City Councilman Alex Wán, who represents District 6, has been involved from the beginning of the annexation/cityhood discussions. “People see positive things happening in Atlanta and want to be part of its turnaround,” he noted.

Longtime resident and DHCA board member Barbara Vogel, whose home is within the city limits near the Olmsted Linear Park, echoes the spirit of Wán’s comments. “I enjoy living in Atlanta,” she said, “and I like saying I live in Atlanta.” She added that creating a new city is “an indescribable amount of work.”

Former DeKalb Commissioner Gale Walldorff, who served the county for 14 years, believes annexation would be a mistake for Druid Hills. “What are we running from and to?” she asked in the tone of someone who has invested much of her life and energy in the operation of the county. “What is driving this movement to leave the county? If it’s the corruption, then we should stay and fight it. We should not walk away from it.” She advised residents to understand all aspects of the issue – city vs. county – and differences between services and how they are delivered. This should include, for example, questions about HOST (Homestead Option Sales Tax) and waste collection. Even if the neighborhood joins Atlanta, “the county will not go away,” Walldorff noted.

DeKalb’s Interim CEO Lee May agreed. “It’s a tough space we’re in,” he said at a September town hall meeting. “Public confidence has been affected, and people are unhappy with the direction of government.” To some this would sound like an understatement, but May has received mostly high marks for owning up to residents’ complaints about inefficiency, mismanagement, and ethical lapses among DeKalb elected officials and paid staff.

May has countered these kinds of charges with a multi-point plan to significantly advance the county’s economy and image. The plan boasts more immediate and long-range fiscal responsibility, such as making major changes in the county’s purchasing division; hiring an ethics officer whose office will include a full-time investigator; addressing issues with schools; creating an economic development strategy that emphasizes being more business-friendly and creating more job opportunities for people who live in DeKalb and would also like to work there. “We must be competitive,” May stressed, adding that the county eventually plans to create a new economic development agency.

Continued on page 10
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President’s Column

By Justin Critz

Greetings to all my Druid Hills neighbors.

I hope you notice and appreciate the new format we are using for the Druid Hills News. After the passing of our long-time editor, Mary Angela White, we contemplated going electronic only. However, after consideration the board determined that the newsletter’s reach was just too important. Thank you to Jennie Richardson and Claudia Keenan for enabling this institution to continue.

Most of you know something about the situation known as Clifton Ridge. The question of whether or not a Certificate of Appropriateness from the DeKalb Historic Preservation Commission is required before parcels in an historic district can be subdivided is a legal question that will be decided by the courts. What is not a legal question is the disgraceful vandalism that has been perpetrated at the property. Such wanton, criminal acts have no place in our beautiful neighborhood and are, frankly, an embarrassment to us all. It angers me to have to take time to address these ridiculous acts, particularly as it is a distraction from the truly momentous issue that we face – cityhood and annexation.

You have heard me address this before, but I must do so again. The movement to incorporate northern and central DeKalb County is intensifying and will affect Druid Hills profoundly. By the time you read this, the DHCA’s second informational piece about our options should have reached you. It contains new information about taxes and schools, and we will continue to post additional information to the www.druidhills.org website. Please check the Cityhood & Annexation link regularly. We are also in the process of preparing a survey of our residents which will, we hope, give us guidance on what direction you want the neighborhood to go. Please be on the lookout for that and respond promptly.

This is my last column as president of the DHCA. Our organization has a long and storied tradition of advocating for the quality of life of its residents, and I am honored that people thought me qualified to lead it. I am grateful for the opportunities this position has given me to meet and get to know so many of my neighbors. You are an interesting, varied, and forceful bunch, and I look forward to returning to just being your neighbor and no longer a cat herder. I wish you all a safe and pleasant autumn and look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.
Hopes, Dreams & Plans for Fernbank Forest  
**By Claudia Keenan & Jennifer J. Richardson**

Long before the museum and science center, before the golf club and the parking lots, the forest lay across the southeastern section of what would become Druid Hills. Home to wildlife, flowers, trees, and the Creek Indians, it was ceded to the state of Georgia in a treaty signed in 1821 at Indian Springs.

In 1889, just a few years before the Atlanta entrepreneur Joel Hurt enlisted the eminent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., to draw plans for an “ideal residential suburb,” the 283 acres that comprised the Fernbank Forest were purchased by Colonel Zadok Daniel Harrison. To the great delight of his family, in 1891 Colonel Harrison built a hilltop home overlooking the forest. A clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia who had served in the Confederate Army, Harrison was the father of seven children. The eldest, Emily Stewart, adored the forest. (See story on Emily Harrison, page 15.)

Most fans of the Fernbank Forest regard Emily Harrison as an environmental heroine ahead of her time. In 1939 she persuaded her siblings to sell 70 acres of the land for about one-third of its value to create a trust, Fernbank, Inc. In fact, one of the first orders of business for the Druid Hills Civic Association, founded a year earlier in 1938, was to help raise funds to purchase the acreage. Less well-known is that Emily thought about selling parts of the property to the state of Georgia as well as various nonprofit organizations long before her father’s death in 1935. It all tied into her lifelong desire to create a progressive country day school.

While Emily’s endless conversations, letters, meetings, and negotiations concerning the establishment of a school would continue into the late 1930s, by 1917 she had already consulted with the director of pedagogy at the Georgia State Normal School who bore the inimitable name Celestia Susannah Parrish, and reported to her parents that funding would be available from the General Education Board and other sources. From the start Emily occasionally led friends, family, and even prospective headmasters to believe that planning for the school was farther along than what things really stood.

It appears that Emily’s parents were persuaded that it would be possible financially and logistically to stay in the house and host a school in the forest as well. But for numerous reasons, she was never successful in putting together the support and funding to establish a progressive country day school even though the presidents of Emory University and Agnes Scott College, the state and city superintendents, a group of affluent, influential Georgians, and several nationally known educators embraced the project.

After the creation of Fernbank, Inc., the forest saw extensive use by scouting groups, the Campfire Girls, and the YMCA (which used the forest as a day camp). The Atlanta Bird Club frequented the forest to observe birds. In 1941, the third floor ballroom of the Harrison home was converted into a children’s museum and a vegetable garden planted behind the house. That summer, a six-week “Nature Study School” was conducted on the property. Unfortunately, by the 1950s, the house had been vandalized and burned and was eventually demolished.

However, Emily did live long enough to see the Fernbank Forest play an essential role in public and private education in the Atlanta metropolitan area. In 1964, Fernbank, Inc. and the DeKalb County Schools signed a 48-year lease whereby the school system would maintain the property and use it as a “living laboratory” to educate visitors about ecology, geology, botany, biology, and more. Fernbank, Inc. also conveyed four acres to the DeKalb County Board of Education for the construction of the Fernbank Science Center. Congressman Jamie Mackay, a Fernbank, Inc. trustee, helped obtain Federal education funds for the project — one of 13 such centers that were part of a national pilot program (and the only one remaining). Opening in 1967, the science center offered enrichment programs in the natural and physical sciences, and immediately began to draw hundreds of visitors each year along with school classes from as far away as Valdosta.

But it was the old-growth “primeval forest,” as Emily often called it, which brought everything together. Recalling his early years as an educator at the science center, ecologist Al Tate described the enthusiastic energy and vast knowledge embodied in the staff which used the forest in nearly all of its programs. A quarter-long magnet class for high school students, STT (Scientific Tools & Techniques), drew national attention along with courses on stream ecology, small mammal biology, and mineralogy. There were lectures and films about astronomy. Boy Scouts and other community groups helped the science center staff maintain the forest. And this was just part of the whole. By 1990 the science center’s annual attendance topped 793,636. In addition to DeKalb County, 22,522 students from 43 different counties and school systems participated in the science center’s programs.

Continued on page 17
Growing up during the 1930s and 40s as a “P.K.” – “Preacher’s Kid” – Betty Mackay perpetually worried that her father, a Methodist minister, would be transferred far away from the city she loved. Born in Athens, Alabama, she arrived in Atlanta at age 6 with no hair (doctors had recently treated her raging case of ringworm by shaving and x-raying her head) and found herself completely at home in Druid Hills.

Until Betty’s hair grew back, her father, whose career culminated at the pulpit of Glenn Memorial Church, called his only daughter, “My little Bermuda onion.” And her first-grade teacher at the Druid Hills School threw a party to celebrate the day that Betty’s hair was long enough to hold a ribbon. “That was Miss Vannerson,” Betty remembered, “and I just loved her.”

With four much older brothers and a cow in the backyard, Betty had the best of both worlds in the yellow brick house at 1167 Oakdale Road where she first lived in Druid Hills. At times akin to an only child yet also part of a large family, she developed a wide circle of friends with some of whom she remains in touch. Her parents infused their children with liberal insights, she noted recently.

Edward G. Mackay emigrated from Ireland and initially planned to be a professor of English literature before theology called to him. His first Atlanta congregation was the First Methodist Church. Her mother Beulah, born in Shanghai as the daughter of missionaries whose family was guaranteed safe passage during the Boxer Rebellion, descended from a long line of abolitionists. Newly married, she moved from Ohio to the South with trepidation.

From the pages of Betty Asbury’s scrapbooks emerges a self-possessed young woman coming of age during Depression and war. There are programs from piano recitals – the neighborhood children received lessons from Isabel Bryan, wife of Emory law professor Paul Bryan – and a letter from the Cracker Jack Company informing Betty that she had won a prize for a riddle she no longer remembers. There are newspaper clippings recounting her champion swimming feats and election as “Miss Druid Hills” of Druid Hills High School.

Her recollections reveal the adventure in ordinary life: “Nobody had a car or gas, so we rode the streetcar from Horton’s (you know about Horton’s, don’t you?) out to Marietta… downtown to see the movies at Loews, the Fox, the Rialto… and once, I believe, we walked all the way home.” Horton’s, by the way, was a beloved 5 & 10 cents store in Emory Village variously described as notorious, quirky, and redoubtable. It boasted a pharmacy, lunch counter, pinball machines, and a jukebox that inspired dancing which, in turn, inspired Mr. Horton to remove it.

“The most wonderful thing happened when I was at the age of 15,” Betty recalled. “The Navy established a V-12 unit at Emory and all of a sudden we were getting together with these gorgeous guys in bell bottom trousers. They couldn’t leave the campus so we met at Fellowship Hall for ’folk games’ – really, it was dancing – and all of the neighborhood girls and Agnes Scott students were invited. Of course that’s where I fell in love for the first time.”

A memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt also is vivid. During the early 1940s, anticipating the president’s visit to Atlanta, Betty and one of her brothers scrambled to the top of their father’s church at 360 Peachtree Street. As the car drove by with its top down they waved at the president just as he threw back his head, noticed them, and waved back.

Today Betty can see the neighborhood in her mind’s eye, largely as it appeared during the years when she walked everywhere and knew everyone. Has it changed? – certainly, but Druid Hills remains for her a beautifully evocative place.
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School News
By Ingrid Wilkerson & Sharon Day

Ben Franklin Academy
This year, the Ben Franklin Academy has decided to direct all annual fund gifts toward science and technology enhancements and student scholarships. If you would like to give a gift or learn more about the school, please visit http://www.benfranklinacademy.org/.

Fernbank Elementary School
Construction proceeds on Fernbank's, larger building which is still on schedule to be completed for the 2014-2015 school year. In the meantime, the school remains at its temporary location in Avondale Estates… Fernbank won the Bronze Award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. This award honors efforts made to promote healthier eating habits and increased physical activity among students and staff… Please support Spirit Night, Fun Run, Fun-a-Thon, and more at http://www.fernbankelementary.org/index.php/support/.

Springdale Park Elementary School
SPARK teacher Elizabeth Emerson won an Atlanta Families’ Award for Excellence in Education… SPARK encourages you to support its programs and technology initiatives through the PTO and such fundraising events as the annual Fun Run and Auction. Business and individuals should visit http://springdaleparkelementary.org/wp/…. The SPARK expansion is finished and features a large new gymnasium, courtyard, spacious classrooms, and more. The new entrance is located on Briarcliff Road.

Druid Hills Middle School
In support of Team Charlene and the ALS Foundation, students wore their favorite hats to school and donated a $1 on three consecutive Fridays… collected supplies for infants in support of Genesis Shelter… recognized International Walk to School Day along with students in 40 countries worldwide. Please donate: empty inkjet or laser printer cartridges; old cell phones, PDAs, MP3 Players, laptops, e-readers, and tablet; contact 678-874-7602.

Druid Hills High School
Druid Hills High boasts three football teams: Varsity, Junior Varsity and C Team. The 2014 season saw an increase in the number of Druid Hills Red Devils football team members with Varsity competing in 11 games and JV and C Team in six games each. Keep up with the teams at www.druidhillsfootball.com and www.facebook.com/dhhsfootball and follow them on Twitter @DHHSfootball.

Paideia School
The Paideia Farms and Gardens are now Certified Naturally Grown (CNG) – Georgia’s first school farm with certification… Paideia received the Captain Planet/Ray Anderson Foundation Eco-tech grant of $2,500 for the school’s aquaponics project (PAQUA)… the Junior High Academic Bowl team won the 2014 Junior Nationals… the Math Team finished first in the 1A Division and 13th overall in the GCTM State Math Tournament… Junior High Runners won Gold in state competition with a total of 12 girls and 11 boys who competed at the Georgia Middle School Track and Field State Championships.

Inman Middle School and Grady High School
Keep up with events and activities by checking these websites: http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/7999 (Inman), http://inman-middle.org/ (Inman PTA), and http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Domain/3087 (Grady).

Support the Schools: Sign up with the following merchants to automatically donate part of your purchase amount to your favorite school: Target Red Card, Publix, Amazon Prime, Office Depot, and Kroger.
Clifton Ridge, 10 Years Later

By Perry Mitchell  
Member, Steering Committee | Deny Clifton Ridge/Preserve Druid Hills

Why has our neighborhood been working so hard for a decade to prevent the proposed Clifton Ridge Subdivision? Because what’s at stake is nothing less than preserving and protecting the physical integrity of our neighborhood, whose historic platting patterns were initially laid out in Druid Hills by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and his firm beginning in the 1890s and continuing through the early 1920s.

This historic platting pattern is characterized by large deep lots set along curvilinear interconnecting streets. Regardless of where one lives in the neighborhood, we all benefit from Druid Hills’ spectacular landscape features preserved by the historic platting pattern. Subdivision of the large deep lots into multiple smaller lots with many houses shoved around a cul-de-sac is antithetical to the Olmsted’s historic platting pattern for Druid Hills. As threatened by Clifton Ridge, a lot-by-lot spread of intrusive cul-de-sac subdivisions down Clifton and throughout the rest of Druid Hills would destroy the aesthetics and historical value of the only neighborhood Olmsted designed in the Southeast. Practically speaking, it would also increase traffic congestion, intensify storm water runoff, and create or exacerbate the many other problems associated with such inappropriate development density.

The historic platting patterns of Druid Hills were for many years at least indirectly protected by DeKalb County’s land use and zoning laws, but as Intown property values escalated and developers began to find ever more creative ways to circumvent neighborhood protections, it was determined by the Druid Hills Civic Association that creating a historic district was necessary. In 1994, with the support and input of the DHCA, the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Ordinance was passed and, in 1996, Druid Hills became the first historic district in DeKalb County. For the last eighteen years, in combination with law use and zoning laws, it has largely been the historic preservation laws that have successfully protected Druid Hills from the type of cul-de-sac subdivisions we see elsewhere slicing up and shoehorned into so many other Intown neighborhoods.

Though required by DeKalb County’s historic preservation laws, the proposed 7 lot cul-de-sac Clifton Ridge Subdivision (carved out of three nearly century-old lots) never obtained a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the Historic Preservation Commission. Yet, the Planning Commission approved the Subdivision Sketch Plat for Clifton Ridge (4-3 vote) in 2011 and the DeKalb County Administration (then headed by Burrell Ellis) issued a Land Development Permit in 2012. The DHCA has challenged both of these decisions in pending court cases and is seeking to have the laws which protect the physical integrity of our neighborhood enforced. Stated simply, Clifton Ridge poses a dangerous legal and physical precedent for Druid Hills. If the Clifton Ridge developers can ignore our neighborhood’s legal protections by end running the historic preservation laws, then the same path can be used by other developers to do exactly the same thing throughout Druid Hills.

Through taking appropriate legal and political action, it is the DHCA’s objective to preserve and protect the physical integrity of our neighborhood. We want nothing less than to save all of Druid Hills from being transformed into one denuded cul-de-sac subdivision after another – including lots at risk near or next to you.
The Fall and Rise of the Heaton Park Bird Sanctuary

By Dewey W. and Victor A. Kramer

Standing in the midst of the greenery, paths, and streams tucked away in land bordered by Vickers Circle, Vickers Drive, and Coventry Place, we recently chatted with Edward Venson, who is a supervisor for the DeKalb County Parks & Recreation System. The subject was the restoration of this forgotten neighborhood resource near the site of the Fernbank Elementary School.

The Heaton Park Bird Sanctuary was created by the Chelsea Heights Garden Club and was known for a quarter of a century as the “Heaton Park Bird Sanctuary.” When we first moved to Druid Hills in the early 1970s, garden club members were still meeting regularly and maintaining the park was one of their priorities.

At that time, there were four entrances to the park: two from Vickers Drive (these were marked by beautiful wrought iron signs, one of which still stands), one from Vickers Circle, and one from Coventry Place. The park sported a large brick barbecue grill, granite benches, and a picnic table. Three bridges crossed the park’s two streams.

In the late 1970s, the park was given to DeKalb County which maintained it. As late as the early 1980s, Fernbank Elementary School teachers brought students to the park for classes.

Decline

The decline of Heaton Park began in the late 1980s. For many years, DeKalb County kept large drum garbage cans at the two Vickers Drive entrances – but they were removed and cans were placed on the park level. Those were not emptied regularly. Occasionally the land is used as a dumping place for household items. Huge trees have fallen; small bushes, trees, and vines have grown up to obscure the landscape. Superintendent Venson commented that he always assumed the wooded area was a holding basin for the county drainage system. The Vickers Circle and Coventry Place entrances are obscured and the bridges have either been destroyed or dangerously damaged.

The Future

Neighborhood residents have rallied to restore the Heaton Park Bird Sanctuary. The county erected a new sign to replace the two on Vickers Drive but it incorrectly states just “Heaton Park.” In the early 1990s neighbors organized several work days during which cans were emptied, vines cut, and poison ivy killed. Two years ago, the Eagle Scouts cleared the Vickers Drive entrance area. Many neighbors stand ready to help further.

We remain hopeful that restoration will occur. If you are interested in helping, please contact us at deweywk@bellsouth.net; (404) 378-4881. Edward Venson, DeKalb County Parks Operations General Manager, may be reached at (404) 294-2872.
In August 2013 May was among presenters at a packed-house community meeting that included several top officials from the City of Atlanta and representatives of the City of Briarcliff Initiative (COBI). The Atlanta officials touted its established, ever-improving services, significant drop in crime rates, advances in safety and finance, and professional approach to zoning and historic preservation. The city has not raised taxes in several years.

As of press time, the option of joining the City of Briarcliff had diminished. “We wish that our proposal could include Druid Hills, but in light of the position taken by Emory and the legislative ‘no islands’ rule, our tentative agreement does not currently include Emory or the area south of the university,” said COBI president Allen Venet. Working with Lakeside Yes, COBI was soon to begin negotiations with the Tucker 2015 group – the goal being a three-party boundary agreement as directed by the leadership of the Georgia General Assembly. COBI and Lakeside Yes have agreed “that we will work to add to our map any excluded neighborhood where there is significant support for joining our proposed city,” Venet said, emphasizing that a strong showing in a neighborhood poll could be very important.

According to Alex Wan, if the neighborhood chooses annexation by Atlanta, the next step would be to lobby the 2015 session of the state legislature to authorize a referendum to allow residents to vote on whether the area would become part of the City of Atlanta. Only the state has this authority – not the City of Atlanta.

The spirited DHCA is known for being proactive and even for going to battle, legally and vocally, for what it deems important to its existing quality of life.

For more information, please visit the DHCA website, which is updated frequently (www.druidhills.org) and look for prominent links related to cityhood and annexation.
Remembering Emory Village
Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church

By J.J. Williams

In 1929, President Harvey Cox of Emory announced "a splendid new church edifice to be completed during the coming year and to be known as Glenn Memorial Methodist Church." The money for the church was donated by the Candler family and would be named for Wilbur Fisk Glenn, the father of Flora Glenn Candler, wife of Asa Candler's oldest son, Charles Howard Candler. President Cox selected "The neck of land between the road entering campus from the southwest corner and North Decatur road as the best place for the church." The structure would be both a sanctuary and an auditorium where many events took place, giving the building a dual purpose. Before Emory built the Schwartz Center and Emory Performing Arts Studio, the church auditorium was the site of the Flora Glenn Candler Concert Series and served as the rehearsal and performance hall of the Atlanta-Emory Orchestra as well as many other events.

The new church was dedicated on October 4, 1931. In The Glenn Memorial Story, James W. May wrote, "Standing on a knoll overlooking the main entrance to the campus, the building itself symbolizes the Methodist heritage in which both the university and the Glenn Memorial Congregation participate. Standing beside one of the busiest thoroughfares in the area, the church proclaims a ministry to the people and institutions of the community as well as the campus. Its imposing tower lifted over the campus and visible from far off invites all who will to participate in its worship and ministry."

Glenn Church was designed by Philip Shutze in the architectural style that descends from the Christopher Wren tradition brought to America by the colonists. The main body of the church was modeled after St. Michel's Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina; the colonnaded portico derives from King's Chapel in Boston, and the 140-foot tower capped with a dome of beaten copper from the bell tower at All Saints, Bristol, England. The tower was constructed to support a carillon, but one has never been installed.

As noted previously, Glenn Church was designed with a dual purpose. According to The Emory Alumnus, "The building can be transformed from a church with pulpit and choir loft to an auditorium, with full stage effects, almost as quickly as the minister can pronounce the benediction." An illustrated article in The Architectural Forum stated, "The stage is hidden from the auditorium by a Palladian motif carried on enormous hinges. When the building is in use as a theatre, it is swung out of the way and discloses an unobstructed stage 29 feet deep and 44 feet wide. The pulpit platform is also movable. When not in use it is rolled up on a steel track under the front of the stage, and the space occupied by it becomes an orchestra pit. The theatre dressing rooms are located in the basement, and at each side of the stage at various levels. The projection room, equipped for talking motion pictures, is located in the tower at the rear of the balcony."

For many years, the Glenn Auditorium was used for plays, concerts, lectures and graduation as well as worship services. A 1962 renovation placed less emphasis on the auditorium aspect and more on the church.

The Glenn Sunday School Building, designed by Neal Smith, was built in 1940. Its most striking feature is the "Little Chapel" located on the right hand side of the North Decatur frontage of the building. This architectural gem, designed by Philip Shutze, is a model of St. Stephen Walbrook, one of Sir Christopher Wren's London masterpieces built between 1672 and 1679. The Little Chapel is a replica in miniature of the English prototype. Capped by a large dome with molded plaster ornamentation, it boasts excellent acoustics and is a popular spot for small concerts and weddings. Carved woodwork at the front and back of the chapel was executed in the Grinling Gibbons manner by H. J. Millard. The carvings depict fruit, flowers, and vegetables, including pine cones, peaches, dogwood, camellias, and magnolias, all borrowed from the Georgia landscape. In 1977 Thomas H. English gave a stained glass window to the front of the chapel in memory of his wife Rachel Willet English.

As a young child, I attended Glenn Kindergarten, now known as the Glenn School. One of my favorite activities was rhythm band, a sure harbinger of my later career as a professional musician. As a student at Fernbank School, I attended Glenn Church. My favorite part of the service was singing hymns; it was at Glenn that I learned about four-part-harmony, and began to sing the alto part.

Glenn members may be horrified by some of the antics of my fellow elementary students. They released marbles from the back of the sanctuary where the sloped floor caused them to roll all way to the front. A female student (who was later married at Glenn) loved to drop hymnbooks from the balcony during the services. Another favorite pastime during services was a game in which the hymnbook was randomly opened to the title of a hymn and the words "between the sheets" were added after the song title, resulting in muffled laughter. ("Blessed be the Tie That Binds Between the Sheets.")

Other memories of Glenn include a performance by Bob Dylan and a spellbinding lecture by Elie Wiesel. Thanks to the Candler Concert Series, I heard many famous classical musicians perform there including Claudio Arrau playing Chopin. I played flute and piccolo in the old Atlanta-Emory orchestra for about 25 years - a wonderful experience - with rehearsals and performances at Glenn. My vocal group, "Atlanta Vocal Consort" gave regular performances in Little Chapel, where the acoustics are superb. I’m sure other residents recall worship services, baptisms, marriages and funerals, as well as moving performances of The Lessons and Carols and Celtic Christmas.

The Glenn Memorial Church is probably the most recognizable building in Emory Village and its most architecturally significant. Perched atop a hill with the steeple reaching toward the sky, it has been an anchor in the village for 82 years. As a church and an auditorium, it has been both the center of United Methodist religious life, as well as a performing arts center. We are fortunate to have such an architectural gem in our midst.
Fernbank Museum of Natural History

A Statement from Susan Neugent, Director

Long before the opening of the physical museum building in 1992, the dream and focus of Fernbank Museum of Natural History was established by its visionary founder, Emily Harrison. Her idea of conserving the irreplaceable treasure of Fernbank Forest as an oasis for inspiring others, thrives within and influences everything the not-for-profit museum has done in the past and will continue to do in the future. Fernbank purchased Fernbank Forest in 1939 to preserve the woodlands as a school in the woods, with nature as its curriculum. Extending that work remains central to our mission today, which focuses on inspiring a lifelong appreciation for natural history, including human culture, science and nature.

One of the first steps in our forest management plan was to undertake an extensive ecological assessment of Fernbank Forest conducted by one of the nation’s top urban forest ecologists, Dr. Stephen Handel, director of the Center for Urban Restoration Ecology at Rutgers University. The assessment concluded that a primary issue in the Forest today is a blanket of more than 45 invasive plant species. While invasives are not unique to Fernbank Forest, experts suggest that over time these species, which include plants such as Liriope, English Ivy and Chinese Privet, have increasingly made it difficult for native plants and trees to propagate, and are a serious threat to the long-term future of the one of America’s largest, urban, old-growth forests.

With these results in mind, it is our duty to complete a careful, full restoration of the Forest, including the extensive invasive species removal process. This work could take a few years, but the high standards involved in restoring an old-growth forest by hand beg patience and reward with nature’s true beauty. We are excited about the process and the chance to share the results of all this hard work with the public. While the work is going on, there are still many opportunities to enjoy the Forest. We welcome community volunteers to assist with care during the restoration, which offers free museum tickets and forest access as one of the benefits to volunteering. We will use invasive plant removal as a teaching opportunity during museum-guided tours, which are offered regularly to focus on several topics of interest, including birds, changing seasons, evening experiences and more. We plan to re-open the Forest for self-guided tours when the first major phase of restoration work is completed. The work will continue in perpetuity after we complete this first phase but with more visitor access than ever before.

This Forest is an integral part of our community and our neighborhood. It is an integral part of our continuing mission to inspire future generations to a deeper engagement with our natural world. Join us in our commitment to restoring and strengthening the health of this Forest so that we can once again open its pathways to those interested in exploring this wonderful Atlanta treasure.

FREE for members!

Winter WONDERLAND

November 21 – January 11

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Liriope: The Plant We Love to Hate
By Paula Refi

Is it li-rye-o-pee, leer-ee-ope, or leer-ee-o-pee? Whatever the pronunciation, this herbaceous member of the lily family is all too familiar in Druid Hills. Whether snaking its way around pine islands or forming lumpy masses under grizzled old trees, it is the groundcover of last resort for dry shade. We Southern gardeners hold it in such contempt that we’ve discarded its original and elegant common name, “lilyturf,” in favor of monkey grass. Liriope is so universally scorned that its attractive lavender flower spikes are scarcely noticed in summer. Careless planting and inattention to maintenance guarantee its disheveled appearance in all seasons.

Native to China, Japan, and Vietnam, liriope was introduced into cultivation in England in 1821. The English took advantage of its shade tolerance and evergreen foliage to underplant hedges and to fill gaps among stones in pathways. While the date of liriope’s arrival in America is uncertain, it was cultivated initially as a houseplant. One early reference occurs in Window Gardening, published in New York in 1872. The author, Henry T. Williams, suggests including it in elaborate indoor container gardens popular with Victorians. He recommends arranging plants “…that every shape and part may be seen…to make the composition light and graceful by putting ferns and grass-like plants between others with large leaves.” Liriope was also used as an edging plant in conservatories.

Early in the twentieth century, H. Harold Home of Glen Saint Mary Nurseries in Florida promoted liriope for outdoor use in the South. In 1926 it appeared on a list of recommended groundcovers for a residence in Columbus, GA, designed by Olmsted Brothers. While assigning neither credit nor blame, it is safe to say that this former houseplant became, over the ensuing decades, a veritable green tide that continues to flow across our shared Southern landscape.

Horticulturists recognize two forms of liriope. *Liriope spicata* is a spreader and has the ability to fill any available space. Use it on slopes or where large masses of groundcover are needed. *Liriope muscari* is a clumping type that tends to stay where it’s planted. Variegated liriope offers an alternative to the green form. Its attention-getting foliage is best used where emphasis is needed, near entries or in the foreground of shrub groupings. Liriope ‘Big Blue’ produces larger blue spikes, and ‘Monroe’s White’ is an elegant alternative. A cultivar with golden foliage, ‘Pee Dee Ingot’, was introduced by Coastal Gardens Nursery in Myrtle Beach, SC. When its purple spikes erupt from the golden blades, it lights up a shady spot.

Garden designers prefer to use liriope in masses as a groundcover, rather than as an edging around beds and along paths. It’s ideal for filling oddly-shaped areas where grass won’t grow and as a lush carpet beneath specimen trees. To achieve a uniform effect, thoroughly till the bed and rake it smooth. Plant fist-sized clumps, spaced 12 inches apart, in staggered rows. This should produce uniform coverage in a year or two. The only maintenance required is an annual mowing in late February to remove tired foliage. New blades will emerge quickly in spring to create a lush, green carpet.
George F. Willis & Avondale Estates
By Jennifer J. Richardson

In 1916, the young entrepreneur George F. Willis purchased a lot in Druid Hills on which to build a home. A North Carolina native, Willis had attended the Bingham Military School in Asheville before moving to Knoxville, Tennessee, where he joined a firm that manufactured medical drugs. Later, he sold International Proprietaries to fellow Druid Hills Golf Club member, S.A. Lynch, and went on to make another fortune selling Zonite, an antiseptic derived from Dakin’s Solution.

Willis and his wife, Lottie, built their home, “Twin Oaks,” at the corner of Clifton Road and Ponce de Leon in 1918 – on the opposite corner from DHGC. Twin Oaks was a Colonial-style home that included a rose garden and a tennis court. Alas, Twin Oaks was demolished in the 1970s by Fernbank, Inc, when plans for the Museum of Natural History were underway. The Slaton Rose Garden was later located where the home stood. Also in 1918, George Willis entered the market as a real estate developer. In 1924, he purchased the town of Ingleside in DeKalb County, along with 950 adjacent acres.

George and Lottie had visited the birthplace of William Shakespeare – Stratford-Upon-Avon – in England. They returned to the states intending to create a similar venue near Atlanta. The farming town of Ingleside, just east of Decatur, seemed perfect to be recreated as Willis’s “ideal town.” Indeed, Willis abandoned most of his other business pursuits and devoted almost all of his time to construction of this town, hiring some of the best men in the business, including Philadelphia landscape architect Robert B. Cridland and Atlanta architect Arthur Neal Robinson. By 1926, Willis had created the business section of the town he dubbed “Avondale Estates” -- a row of shops in Georgia’s only documented Tudor Revival style.

Soon enough grand homes, many in Tudor style, were springing up all over the new town. But Willis constructed more than just homes and shops; he also built a community lake, tennis courts, a clubhouse, a swimming pool, and bridle and walking paths. Landscape architects and nurserymen called for 30,000 trees, shrubs, and formal English gardens. Some of the public landscaped areas in Avondale Estates are reminiscent of the work of famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed Druid Hills.

The Depression brought some hard times to Avondale, though it could have been worse. Hundreds of lots in Avondale were sold at “no price limit” while others sold for as little as $50. The town, which was an independent city with its own government, survived the Depression. Today, the original row of Tudor Revival buildings looks much as it did when built.

In addition to being a bird sanctuary and home to one of the first garden clubs in Georgia, Avondale Estates is also the home of the first “Waffle House” Restaurant (now demolished) and Waffle House Number #1,000 (still operating). Further, there’s a Waffle House museum in Avondale that celebrates the chain’s long history.

George Willis died at the age of 52 in 1932 and Lottie died two years later. But their “ideal town” still exists. Avondale Estates was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the 1980s, and part of the application for that protection notes that Avondale is the only documented planned community in Georgia and the Southeast in the early 20th Century.
**Scott Peacock’s Apple Cake**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 3/4 c. plus 2 T. vegetable oil
- 2 1/2 c. sugar
- 4 eggs
- 3 3/4 c. White Lily all-purpose flour
- 1 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 2 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 1/2 cups chopped Granny Smith apples (peeled and cored)
- 1 1/4 cups chopped pecans
- 2 1/2 tsp. vanilla

**Directions:**
1. Preheat oven to 300 Degrees.
2. Place vegetable oil and sugar into mixer and mix well until light in color. Add eggs one at a time and mix well after each addition.
3. Sift together flour, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Add to sugar and egg mixture. Blend together well.
4. Add apples, pecans and vanilla. Mix well to incorporate all ingredients. Pour into a buttered and floured 13x9 baking pan. Spread and even out batter in the pan. Bake for 1 - 1 1/2 hours.
6. When cake is done, poke small holes over the top of the cake. Pour warm glaze over the top of the cake.

**GLAZE:**
- 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. light brown sugar
- 1 c. heavy cream

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A Former Mayor Lauds Druid Hills

Sam Massell, who served as mayor of the City of Atlanta from 1970 to 1974, grew up in Druid Hills during the 1920s and 30s. He is founder and president of The Buckhead Coalition, a civic association that functions like a chamber of commerce within the 28 square miles of the northern quadrant of Atlanta.

When Claudia Keenan began researching An Informal History of the Druid Hills Civic Association (2013), she chatted with Mr. Massell in his office. Earlier this year, he thanked the DHCA for publishing the book. His letter appears below.

Compliments to the Druid Hills Civic Association

On the northernmost (final) block of Oakdale Road, where I lived from 1927 to 1938, I was a neighbor of Atlanta’s future Chamber of Commerce president, Larry Gellerstedt, Miss America’s emcee-to-be, Bert Parks, controversial political offspring Herman Talmadge, and others of significant note.

I went to Druid Hills School for eleven years, which then offered elementary and high school, and one year at Emory University, all of which I benefited from academically, and thoroughly enjoyed.

I moved from Oakdale to Briarcliff, one door away from The ByWay (still considered Druid Hills), and finally to St. Charles Place at the age of 16. When I married, in 1952, my wife and I moved to Buckhead, where I live and work to this day.

I share my geographical history because many know of my decades-long love affair with Buckhead. Yet I am particularly proud to be mentioned in the Druid Hills book because it too, is a wonderful place to live, and I’m ready with easy compliments on its quality of life, at any opportunity.

--Sam Massell

Lullwater Conservation Garden Celebrates
By Kim Storbeck

Friends and members of the Lullwater Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week with a new grant and bench dedication on June 7. Last fall, the 83-year old club launched a long-term revitalization plan to better manage water, erosion, and invasive species as well as expand trails and cultivate a wildlife habitat. Therefore, members were especially pleased to announce that the garden had received a Love Your Block grant from the City of Atlanta.

The grant was used to reach out to the community and government about the garden’s history and plans and to spruce up an area in the garden dedicated to one of the Club’s distinguished members.

The star of the morning was Jean Johnson Givens, a Georgia master gardener, recipient of three degrees from Emory University, and lifelong resident of Druid Hills. Jean’s passion for horticulture has enriched the garden since she became a member of the Lullwater Garden Club in 1959.

“I would like to thank the city for honoring us with a grant and Jean Givens for the abundance of her contribution,” club president Kim Storbeck declared as everyone celebrated “Jean Givens Day” at the garden.

For more information please contact Kim Storbeck at kim.sutherland@market-line.com.

The Tour Is Coming!

Please join the committee that orchestrates the Druid Hills Tour of Homes & Gardens, which will take place May 1-3, 2015. The tour will feature the eclectic architectural work of the Atlanta firm, Ivey & Crook (1923-1967), whose principals trained with Francis Palmer Smith at Georgia Tech and apprenticed with Neel Reid. Their homes, many neoclassical in style, appear throughout Druid Hills. The firm also designed Druid Hills High School and several buildings on the Emory University campus. The tour committee meets at noon on the first Wednesday of each month at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Oakdale & Ponce. Bring your lunch! For more information, contact tour@druidhillstour.org.
Meanwhile, plans were underway to raise money and construct the modern Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Inc. At 160,000 square feet, it is the largest museum of its type in the southeast. It opened in 1992 at the corner of Clifton Road and Ponce de Leon Avenue with Dr. Kay Davis as the founding director. (Susan Neugent is the current director and CEO.) While Emily Harrison was no longer alive, the museum extended her vision of inspiring in visitors a lifelong appreciation for natural history, and is committed to preserving the forest for educational purposes. The museum contains permanent and traveling exhibits and has one of the few IMAX theatres (named for benefactor Rankin Smith) in the metro area. Its popular exhibit, "A Walk Through Time in Georgia," and other displays and activities are geared toward children.

Between 1992 and 2012, the museum and the Fernbank Science Center staffs collaborated on various projects. But in 2012 when the 48-year lease expired, the museum did not issue a new lease to the school system although both the science center and the DeKalb County School System hoped to continue. In June, the forest was padlocked and the relationship between the science center and the museum ended. The entrance was moved from behind the science center to a gate on the east side of Clifton Road.

In April 2014 Decatur residents Everado and Noemi Vega whose two sons, ages 7 and 10, had reveled in the forest, started a petition to reopen it. As of October 1, it had been signed by more than 560 people. The Vegas and Druid Hills resident Rebecca Anderson also created the website www.openfernbankforest.com which features commentary, photographs, correspondence with Fernbank Museum director Susan Neugent, and documents related to the Fernbank Forest lease.

The forest is no longer available for the science center to use as its "living laboratory," which means that classes may visit the science center but students and teachers may no longer enter the forest with a science center instructor. Science Olympiad competitors, Emory University researchers, neighbors, and master gardeners are among others who are affected. The museum hosts guided monthly bird walks and twilight tours which are advertised on the museum’s website and generally limited to 20 people.

Residents were disappointed that free access to the forest had ended. But Fernbank Museum of Natural History had plans to rehabilitate the forest and felt it necessary to temporarily close the forest. It has now been for two years. To maintain such a large amount of acreage, Fernbank required a comprehensive Forest Management Plan. Such plans are routinely developed for the U.S. Forest Service, National and State Parks, and other areas of ecological significance. The first part of the plan involved a survey of native plants, non-native invasive plants, and rare or endangered plants. It would also identify sick or diseased plants. Throughout Druid Hills, in woodlands, forests, and homeowners’ yards, non-native invasives are prolific. These invasive plants often choke out and eventually kill native plants. English Ivy, Mimosa, and Wisteria are the best-known examples. Once established, they will climb trees and eventually kill them. English Ivy actually puts a chemical into the soil that can prevent native plants from thriving. Therefore, the threat of invasives to Fernbank Forest is real and significant. One of Fernbank Museum’s priorities is to carefully remove these non-native invasive plants.

During the first phase of implementation of the forest management plan, the museum will keep the forest closed except for the guided tours. According to Aneli Nugteren, Fernbank Museum’s Chief Operating and Sustainability Officer, the "self-guided tours will resume in the future and we are committed to doing this as soon as the first major phase of accessibility and restoration efforts is complete... The museum is now in a unique position to steward the forest and provide educational experiences in it in fulfillment of Fernbank’s mission.”

When the forest is reopened for self-tours, visitors will pay a fee. “The forest will be a part of Fernbank’s programmatic offerings and [is] included with museum admission or membership,” Nugteren said. “Volunteers, members, museum visitors, and Title 1 School students will be able to access the forest for free.” The museum has not fully explored all other discounts for access, but has frequently worked out special discounts and programs for specific groups.

“We wish the museum, science center, and Fernbank Forest could reunite,” Al Tate said. “The forest is a world to explore right in the city and we all should have access.” Whether you are for or against the current closing; for or against the museum’s dissolution of its partnership with the Fernbank Science Center, one thing needs to be emphasized in this debate: the forest has remained undeveloped and preserved in accordance with the vision and perseverance of one woman: Emily Harrison.
A Tribute to Norman Ross Harbaugh, Sr. | 1924-2013
By Jennifer J. Richardson

Although the name Sally Harbaugh has long been associated with the Olmsted Linear Park, few know what an important role Sally’s husband, Norman, played.

Norman’s accomplishments were many, including earning a doctorate in business administration from Harvard University. He served his country in the Navy for 27 years, attaining the rank of Captain. Norman taught Baptist Sunday School for 72 years and served as a deacon in several Baptist churches; he was also active with the Masons and Boy Scouts. At Georgia State he helped to direct and shape the MBA program. In 1957, Norman married Sally Higgins.

When Sally Harbaugh decided to take up the mantle of Olmsted and founded the Olmsted Parks Society of Atlanta in 1983, Norman was right beside her. Longtime treasurer and board member of the organization, he also supported Sally’s research at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., at Olmsted’s home, “Fairsted,” and in many other arenas where Sally gained history and perspective on the life and work of Olmsted.

Norman was an elegant man, usually formally attired in a dark business suit. He was always respectful of others, and always a gentleman. His smile and laughter could light up a room as he conversed intelligently on a multitude of subjects. A great story-teller, Norman lived out his faith and served as a role model and mentor to all. With the uncanny ability for a man of his generation, he stood in the background giving support while others led the charge. Sally may have received the press coverage and honors, but she could not have accomplished all she did without the help of her beloved Norman.

Norman’s life revolved around many things, but three come to mind: service and love of one’s country; service and devotion to one’s God; and love and service to one’s family. These were the values for which Norman stood. As Sally accomplished her myriad feats in fighting the expressway, founding Olmsted Parks, and spearheading the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance and developing its master plan, Norman was always there beside her until his health no longer allowed it. Still, his towering figure lingers as a shadow behind her—and all who knew him. Norman Harbaugh was worthy of our admiration and honor in how he chose to live his life. In Norman, the Olmsted Linear Park has lost a mighty oak, and we will miss him.

Druid Hills Welcomes Artists, Art Collectors, Guest of Show & Neighbors to the 2015 Olmsted Plein Air Invitational

The Olmsted Plein Air Invitational will take place in Druid Hills, April 22-26, 2015, when 30 of the world’s greatest collectible artists will create paintings in the Olmsted Linear Park. The “green heart of Atlanta” will be celebrated through the artistic legacy and plein air heritage of landscape painting.

All six segments of the rehabilitated Olmsted Linear Park along Ponce de Leon Avenue will become an outdoor studio. Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Druid Hills Golf Club, and surrounding gardens will also be included as part of the event.

Plein air painting, or painting in the open air, is a familiar concept today but was revolutionary when the Impressionists ventured out of their studios to capture the effects of sunlight in the late 1800s. The Olmsted Linear Park has never before been documented in this way.

Thirty of the most renowned open air landscape painters from around the world were identified by selection jurists and have responded by selecting some of the master plein air painters of America for this event. The highly collectible paintings created here will be offered for sale.

Each evening, the artists will mingle with Olmsted Plein Air Invitational sponsors and patrons at ticketed events at Cherokee Town Club and private homes and gardens in Druid Hills. The awards and collectors event will include the opportunity for advance purchase of collectible paintings.

The artwork produced by the Master plein air landscape painters will be evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges. The artists will compete for a purse of $10,000 and the prestigious Olmsted Award. The weekend will also feature lectures and demonstrations.

Paintings will be offered for sale first to sponsors and patrons of the Olmsted Plein Air Invitational at an exclusive, ticketed Artist Awards and Collector’s Soiree held at the Druid Hills Golf Club.

For details about the artists and a schedule of events please visit www.olmstedpleinairinvitational.com and follow us on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/olmsteadpleinair. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please email sponsor@olmstedpleinairinvitational.com or call 404-474-7309.
She lived nearly a century, having been born in Atlanta in 1874, following her dreams west to Chicago, north to New York, and across the ocean to Europe with many stops along the way before her 1973 death at Canterbury Court. The eldest of seven, Emily Stewart Harrison is best known in Druid Hills for rallying her siblings in 1939 to establish Fernbank, Inc., a nonprofit corporation that would govern Fernbank Forest.

Fernbank, as Emily named it, was an expansive home built on a 70-acre estate at 849 Clifton Road, which Emily’s father, Zadok, purchased in 1891. Emily, who completed the college entrance course at Washington Seminary that same year, delighted in the native forest. She was a born naturalist whose letters expressed true passion for the plants, trees, animals, and so much more that would be part of her life for many decades to come.

That summer, Emily wrote to a friend: “The very best thing that makes me happiest, is that Papa has built for us a summer home in the country. Not a village home, but a real wild woods home. In truth, it is only about four miles from Atlanta but who would dream that the city is so near? The woods are all around, the great trees growing so tall and close together that in some places the sun can hardly find its way through to flicker on the carpet of brown leaves and pine needles that strew the ground. Of course there had to be an immense amount of clearing done though Papa teasingly said I wept over every tree that was cut and would never allow him to clear the snags out of the brook for fear he would spoil the beauty of nature. It did seem a pity to touch anything. Nature had done so much for the place. The land lies beautifully. The house is situated on top of a high hill, on two sides are brooks which flow together in front and form what the country people, unpoetically call Pea-vine creek. I can catch a glimpse from my window of this stream as it winds like a silver thread between its fern-fringed banks.”

Interestingly, Emily did not pursue botany or biology when she started college in summer 1897 at the University of Chicago. There she studied sociology, Tennyson, and Browning for one quarter before returning to Atlanta to become assistant editor of the Southern Educational Journal. In the pages of this monthly magazine, Emily wrote about “educational conditions in the South,” railed against illiteracy, and commented on such topics as rural schooling, overcrowded classrooms, and “the loveliness of childhood.” In 1900 she left the Southern Educational Journal to become editor of the Woman’s Department of the Atlanta Daily News. For many years to come, she would continue to report on education and try in vain to persuade Atlanta’s newspaper editors to devote more space to educational issues. They invariably replied, “It won’t pay.”

Between 1902 and 1911, Emily ensconced herself in Athens as chair of the Department of Literature at the Georgia State Normal School. But she perpetually poked around for other opportunities. In 1908 she took a leave of absence to study at La Sorbonne. Later that year, she hoped to be appointed director of the Tallulah Falls School established by the Georgia Federation of Women’s Clubs on Cherokee Mountain. “I am 34, unmarried and ‘without prospects,’ yet with certain talents and capabilities …[Could] this school ever develop into the school of my dreams?” she wrote to a friend. The position never materialized. Evidently unhappy at the Normal School, she left to chair the Department of English first at Shorter College in Rome and then at North Avenue Presbyterian School in Atlanta.

After much debate about the necessity of a college degree, Emily returned to Chicago and received a Ph.B. in 1915. She relied heavily on “advanced standing” (credits accrued through her work experience), although she did take “Education 1” with Charles H. Judd, the severe director of the university’s Department of Education. One of the nation’s foremost proponents of applying scientific research to how children learn, Judd insisted that education could be improved by controlled experimentation and analysis of the statistics it yielded. This view contrasted sharply with that of philosopher John Dewey, who considered the school a laboratory where children learn by doing.

During the next two decades, Emily Harrison would reject Judd’s methodology in favor of Dewey’s perspective. Her embrace of the increasingly popular approach of progressive education would intensify her longstanding wish to create a school in the Fernbank Forest. (To be continued in the next issue.)
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