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Berkeley Park Bulletin

October 2009

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President's Report

by Michael Wagoner

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404-391-3573

Welcome to Fall in Berkeley Park. I hope everyone made it through this month's rains with little damage.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the September meeting due to a power outage at the Senior Citizens Center.

Please try to make it out to the October meeting. This month we will discuss updates from the Department of Public Works, upcoming fundraisers, District 8 updates from Clair Muller, and a discussion on Code and Zoning. We will also have an introduction to the Atlanta Global Preparatory Academy and some info on The Arbors at Berkeley.

With the mayoral and city council elections coming up on November 3rd, October gives us the unique opportunity to explore our options for city office. Berkeley Park, and our surrounding Neighbors have felt the effects of a broken City government for too many years. Taxes, Water, Roads, Fire, Police, 911.....take your pick. We all have the right to make our vote count, so no matter who you support, you must vote. With election day close by, I expect to have a number of candidates attend the October meeting. We will introduce all candidates in attendance, and they will stay around after the meeting to answer your questions. Please do your research to make an educated decision.

Don't forget to check out this month's announcement section to read about fundraisers, blogs, and new businesses in our area.

Michael Wagoner

President- Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association

404-391-3573

**Next meeting:
Monday, October 19, 2009
Senior Center**

**1705 Commerce Drive
7:00 pm**

Community News

Water wise plants in a (now) water rich world

by Frank Leupold

I imagine a few of you have been wondering about the “weedy yard” at the corner of Bowen Place and Antone Street. One of the reasons I established a residence in Atlanta was to take advantage of the water rich environment. After being raised on an Iowa farm and living in garden conscious Boston and lush Los Angeles, the arid conditions facing my landscaping plans at my Arizona residence, were frustratingly daunting.

That my yard is the first open view yard as one enters Berkeley Park from Howell Mill, I felt an obligation to provide a welcoming sight to both residents and visitors. I embarked on creating a formal garden atmosphere, sectioned off with pea gravel paths delineating color areas. Then the draught here hit. Combined with a careless tenant who preferred to allow her dog to relieve himself on the lawn rather than walk him, my front yard was toast. I decided to use the recent knowledge I had gained devising my visually and aromatic stimulating “Jardin de Estrellas” in Arizona while choosing species with roots which would survive in clay and low water conditions and not rot should water return to our neighborhood.

In the autumn of 2007 I had the front yard torn up and sewn with a wildflower mix. This produced a rather attractive, yet sparse, array of phlox, violets, bee balm, and this summer's sun flowers.

Last fall, my then contracted landscaper was to have planted the “fill in” xeric (water wise) plants I recently put in, as she abandoned the project. Of course the recent flooding rains may make all this unnecessary, but with the water from Lake Lanier still in litigation, and global warming continuing to play havoc with weather systems, the use of water wise plantings will, when established, provide a colorful entry yard to our neighborhood, and not coincidentally, lower my water bill.

The design of the yard plantings revolve around the central established iris and magnolia and are anchored by three triangular ornamental grass plantings. These are very different varieties. On the east side of the yard is a blue green fescue which should produce golden seed head flowers in the late spring. To the south east is a feathery reed grass which should reach 4-5 feet and produce wheat-colored seed heads by fall. And on the west side is a bunch grass that creates a pink-hued haze via its lacy seed heads.

Two triangular, colorful groupings of golden mountain alyssum and a deep purple meadow sage occupy areas to the west of the magnolia near its Antone edge and where the path from the post boxes meets the curved bed near the house's entry bricks. This area encloses a previously planted yucca and has been augmented by a licorice mint which hopefully will attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

There are two areas planted with rows of pinkish purple prairie cone flowers, which should spread. Sprinkled throughout the yard are plantings of blue flax. These darker colors should contrast nicely with the bright yellow oranges of the sunflowers.

Nothing has been more discouraging in my attempts at horticulture here than seeing a well turned out yuppette allowing her dog to lift his leg upon the herbs planted along Bowen Place. I have therefore put in some spiny customers to greet such rudeness. Prickly pears grow in all the lower 48, and two varieties are being tried here, cow's tongue, which you will recognize by its distinguishing namesake shape and purple, the color of which depends upon moisture. Along the Antone side of the stop sign is a stag horn cholla and along Bowen Place is a

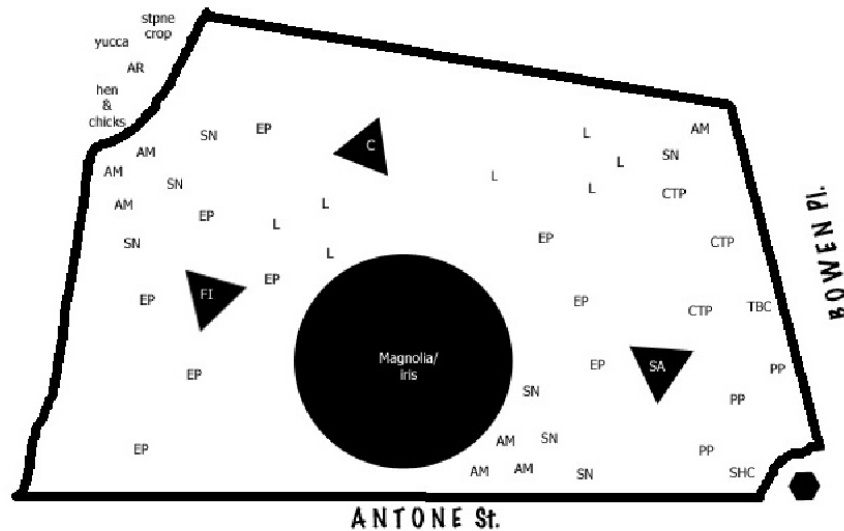
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teddybear cholla - both nasty beings when touched. The teddybear is also called a jumping cholla for its tendency to detach and cling to visitors who come near.

The side yard toward Bowen Place has not been ignored. In the higher half circle near the street I have planted a butterfly bush which produces long deep purple clusters of flowers much like, but thinner than, lilacs. And butterflies do love the nectar it produces. Down the slope I have placed a perennial marigold with highly aromatic foliage. Maximilian's sunflowers have been placed against the gray stone wall and Blue Spires Russian sage in the flat area north of the Japanese maple.

Who knows if this plan will work. I am still seeking a landscaper who understands xeric gardening and would be able to rid the yard of unwanted botanic residents without removing shoots of the more xeric kind. Next year I'll see what survives and replace whatever hasn't. During the intervening time I will be searching for a groundcover which appreciates red Georgia clay and hopefully my neighbors will enjoy the evolving process. If all works well, in 2011 Berkeley Park should have a xeric prairie meadow to enjoy. If you would like a key to the Antone/Bowen place planting, please contact me via Leupold1@AOL.com. I thank you all for your patience.

For a map and key to the plantings at 792 Antone, [click here](#).



KEY TO FRONT YARD XERIC PLANTINGS - 792 ANTONE

AM	ALYSSUM MONTANUM	mountain gold or creeping basket of gold
AR	AGASTACHE RUPESTRIS	licorice mint or sunset hyssop
C	CALAMAGROSTIS ACUTIFLORA	Karl Foerster Feather Reed grass
CTP		cow's tongue prickly pear
EP	ECHINACEA PURPUREA	purple prairie cone flower
FI	FESTUCA IDAHOENSIS	Siskiyou blue Idaho fescue grass
L	LINUM PERENNE APPAR	appar blue flax
PP		purple prickly pear

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SA	SPOROBOLUS AIROIDES	alkali sacaton grass
SHC		stag horn cholla
SN	SALVIA NEMEROSE	May night meadow sage
TBC		teddy bear cholla

NPU-D Report

by Jim Martin

james.martin@me.gatech.edu

The September 22 nd NPU-D meeting was a pretty quick one. Attendance was way down because the flood waters had receded just a few hours before the meeting began. Bolton Rd leading to the Agape center had been under four or five feet of water earlier in the day. The center itself, despite being next to a creek, was spared any flooding.

Our only zoning case was for the old Whittaker School on Huff Rd. The adjoining Howard School had contracted to buy this property in order to incorporate it into their campus. Oddly, the site was zoned I-1 although it had once been a school. Thus, it needed to be rezoned (they were asking for OI zoning) in order to be a school again. Our biggest problem with all this was that they did not have an actual plan for the site. Most developers would have been promptly denied under these circumstances. However, the Howard School has been a good neighbor since opening a few years ago so we were willing to give them considerable leeway. We voted to grant them the OI zoning with the condition that they must have NPU-D approval in order to remove a stand of mature trees on the site. This was because they had indicated that they might want to do this if their plans "required" it, but they had no plans and nothing to document any such requirement (they also have poor history of tree preservation). After some whining about how they wanted to keep all their options open, they agreed to this condition.

The only other business on our agenda was our vote to readopt our current bylaws for 2010 and our vote to approve a set of revisions to the city's sign ordinance. We wrapped things up a little after 8:30. We would have finished sooner but some folks wandered in late so we looped back through the agenda items that we had missed earlier.

Next NPU-D meeting:
Tuesday, October 27, 2009
7:30 pm
Agape Center, 2351 Bolton Road, NW
ALL NPU RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME

Announcements

Neighborhood Fundraiser

Mark your calendar! The Six Feet Under Pub & Fish House restaurant on 11th St. is sponsoring a dine out fundraiser for Berkeley Park on Tuesday, November 3rd from 4:00 PM until closing at 1:00 AM. Plan to dine out in a neighborhood restaurant while supporting Berkeley Park. Six Feet Under will donate 20% of its revenues from the evening sales to the Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association.

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Six Feet Under Pub & Fish House on the Westside is located at:
685 11th Street
Atlanta, Ga. 30318
Check out their menu at <http://www.sixfeetunderatlanta.com>

Fire Station #23 Fundraiser

From Captain Keith---- We are starting to move toward our fundraising for Station #23. We have received the first order of t-shirts and we will begin selling them this week. The sign company at Northside and Bellemeade donated a sign for us. One of our members covered the cost of the shirts out of his own pocket, so I'd like to get enough sold quickly, so that we can pay him back. I would like to encourage folks to come in and buy a shirt? I am meeting with Bill Rhodes from the Atlanta Fire Foundation on Tuesday about starting a Foundation account for the renovation of #23. This will give us the ability to accept tax-deductible donations and avoid the interference and delays from City Hall. This will also help us as far as accounting of what we take in.

Calling for Park Pride Leader

With a name like Berkeley Park, we should have a neighborhood park! There is a growing interest to find a person to spearhead a park initiative for our neighborhood. There are a few ideas out on the table but we need someone who has the time to make phone calls to the city, create some publicity for a park, as well as encourage our neighborhood volunteers and gather input. If you have some free time to work on this initiative, please contact Mary Stuart or Melody at marystuart.iverson@harrynorman.com or mharclerode@TheArchitectureGroup.com

New Urgent Care Clinic Opens

Doctors Express Urgent Care will open this December at 1800 Howell Mill Road, at I-75 in the new Piedmont West medical building. This location will be extremely close and convenient for the residents of Berkeley Park the next time you have a need for immediate medical care. In coming months we will reach out to find out how we can best let the residents of Berkeley Park know that we are a new resource for your community.

Just some quick facts on our services:

- Open extended hours, no appointments needed, short wait times: M-F 8am – 8pm; Sat-Sun 10am-6pm
- Staffed by physicians, nurses and x-ray techs
- Our lead physician, Dr. John Destito, is a 15 year emergency medicine physician who also did his residency in internal medicine and pediatrics.
- One-stop medical care: X-ray, lab and most pharmaceutical prescriptions filled on site
- We handle illnesses; injuries including lacerations and sprains; allergies; sports physicals; travel vaccinations; and much more.

New Blog needs YOU!

Creative Loafing Atlanta is interested in getting community members involved in our new blog called Street View Atlanta. Would your organization and its members be interested in contributing to the blog? Here's more information about it.

http://atlanta.creative loafing.com/gyrobase/want_to_contribute_to_our_blogs/Page?oid=910648

Check us out on Facebook!!

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Follow Berkeley Park on Facebook by joining our group. Go to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and search for Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association.

About Us

The Berkeley Park Bulletin is published monthly in print and at www.berkeleypark.org by the Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association, a non-profit organization. It is distributed to all Berkeley Park residents 3 times a year. To subscribe to the monthly edition, submit an article or Talk Back letter, or inquire about advertising, contact the editor, Maureen Hetrick, at 404-609-9873 or maureenfh@mindspring.com. We accept appropriate articles from all Berkeley Park residents or other interested community members at the discretion of the editor and as space permits.

Effective January 1, 2009, membership in the BPNA is \$20 per person (up to 3 adults per address are eligible to become members), and \$10 for seniors. To join the association, attend a monthly meeting and pay dues to the treasurer, [Nina-Daniela McCormack](#), or the president, [Michael Wagoner](#). If you cannot attend a meeting but wish to join, or for more information, email us at info@berkeleypark.org.

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