



BrookNotes

February 2004

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XVII, No. 1

BWH Annual Meeting and Elections

A stalwart group of BWH Community Club members met Sunday February 1 in Rich Auditorium. Club President Nicole Cook reviewed the highlights of the year including persuading the Atlanta City Council to reject Allied Readymix's bid to build a concrete batch plant on Armour Circle. Nicole noted that Brookwood Hills is especially indebted to our councilman Howard Shook and our attorney David Cooper for their work on this effort.

Nicole thanked a number of members of the community including Benning Grice, Mark Potts, and Scott Bass for all their work on the pool and park problems last summer; Katrina Newton for spearheading the tree replanting program, Sarah Hagood for sponsoring Brooknotes, the directory and the Halloween party; Patti Junger for sponsoring Brooknotes and the Spring Fling Party; Karen Mullinax for sponsoring the July 4th Party and the Ice Cream Social; and the BWH Garden Club for its many good works throughout the neighborhood.

Treasurer John Richardson reported on the Club's finances. The Club is in fine shape. After measures are taken to improve the drainage around the pool and park, John expects the club to be able to make a significant paydown to the loan taken out for the park/pool renovation.



New Community Club President Roy Trimble and outgoing President Nicole Cook.

Pool Co-Chair Benning Grice described improvements made at the pool last year. In discussing the pool/park drainage problem Benning reported that an engineering study with recommendations had been prepared for the club to consider. The broad range of suggestions included changing the type of grass in the park, adding or building up walls, adding sump pumps and extra drains. The Board will consider what action to take in coming months.

The Club members voted to approve the proposed slate of board members including introducing the new BWHCC President Roy Trimble.

Brooknotes is published monthly for residents of Brookwood Hills on behalf of the Brookwood Hills Community Club, 77 Wakefield Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. Brooknotes is sponsored on alternate months by Patti Junger of Coldwell Banker/Buckhead Brokers and Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc.

Brooknotes Editors

Laurie Hood 404-875-5452 (110 Huntington Road)
Maureen Zent 404-724-0959 (122 Huntington Road)

Contributors this month:

Brooknotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes is Wednesday, March 3. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@yahoo.com or dropped off at 110 Huntington Rd.

Brookwood Hills Board

President
Roy Trimble 404-874-1690

Vice President
Mark Potts 404-355-3697

Secretary
Katie Simon 404-355-1838

Treasurer
John Richardson 404-875-0112

Government & Community Relations
Dan Bromstad 404-352-9535
Art Waldrop 404-874-1690

Membership
Wendy Silliman 404-870-0057
Sheridan Watson 404-874-5666

NPU & Zoning
Tricia Warren 404-350-4046
Bill Kantola 404-815-0648

Park
Scott Bass, 404-355-7887

Pool
Benning Grice 404-872-8193

Trees
Andrew Whitney 404-350-9614

Security
Lisa Barnhart, 404-355-3707

Social/Park Reservations
Amy Mattingly 404-352-3571 (Park Reservations)
Avery Williams 404-815-8006

Webmaster
Bill Porter, 404-874-6180, wporter@evalfo.com

Security Alert Signs

When you see the **Security Alert** signs posted at the entrances to our neighborhood, please call the **Brookwood Hills Security Information Line 404-325-5114** for details concerning a recent security incident. These signs are a signal that an incident has occurred in the neighborhood and the information has been recorded on the hotline.

Did you buy a house, or join a neighborhood?

Think about that for a minute. Consider why you live here. Why you moved here.

And while you're thinking about that, I'd like to say thank you to Nicole Cook for the fine work she did this year as President of the Brookwood Hills Community Club. And thanks to the 2003 Board. Nicole and the Board worked long and hard on short-term issues and long-term initiatives that will positively impact our neighborhood for years to come.

Now back to that question. We all moved here for a reason. Some grew up here and moved back, others love older homes, some came for the pool and park or maybe the trees. Some wanted a neighborhood with sidewalks. And some will just do anything to avoid a commute.

Whatever your reason, do you just live here or have you joined the neighborhood. Do you get involved? Do you keep an eye out for your neighbors? Do you watch your speed as you enter and leave? Do you take care of your trees? Do you belong to the community club? Do you wave at the security patrol? Do you support the local merchants? There are so many ways to belong to the neighborhood. Most are small things but they all add up to make this a great place to live for all of us.

Your community club is a big part of what makes BWH special. Thank you all for being members. For recognizing how important it is to support the neighborhood by supporting the club. As people move in tell them why the club is important. If your current neighbors are not members encourage them to join. To truly be a part of their neighborhood. To not just live here but to join Brookwood Hills. Our goal should be for every household to be a member. Everyone should do their part. And everyone should benefit.

You have an excellent group representing you on the Board this year. I look forward to working with all of them to continue to make this the best place to live in Atlanta.

Roy Trimble
President

The next Brooknotes deadline for submissions is Wednesday March 3. Please send submissions to **brooknotes@yahoo.com** or drop them off at 110 Huntington Road.

Meet the President — Roy Trimble

When our new BWH Community President Roy Trimble and his wife Karlenne first moved to Atlanta twelve years ago they fell in love with Brookwood Hills. Unfortunately there were no suitable houses in the neighborhood for sale. So they bided their time until at last they bought a house on Palisades.

Roy is a native Alabamian. He is Creative Director for J. Walter Thompson Technology and you may have seen his work on such business channels as CNBC, CNN, Level 3, ISS, and CDW. Karlenne works for Manning, Selvage, & Lee a PR firm.

For fun, Roy says he "likes to eat" as well as take cooking classes and play lots of tennis. He says that Brookwood Hills "is a wonderful place to live because over time as a group the neighborhood has set itself apart by investing in the community."

BWH CLUB DUES DEADLINE IS HERE!

FEBRUARY 15th is the deadline for club dues. There's a long waiting list of folks who would like to join. So if you intend to renew or join, please do it now.

A membership dues (pool, park, tennis security, support for zoning, traffic efforts, and beautification) are \$600. **S** membership dues (senior/grandparent—pool, park, security, support for Club efforts) are \$400. **B** membership dues (security, park maintenance, Club efforts) are \$225.

If you have any questions please contact Wendy Silliman, Membership Chair at 404-870-0057 or wendy.silliman@att.net.

Please mark **February 18-21** on your calendars. These are the dates of the annual **Trinity School Artists Market**, a shopping extravaganza with something to please every taste and budget. We will have more than 500 pieces of folk art, jewelry, paintings, sculpture, glass, metal, wood, home accessories, furniture and ceramics! The Market is held at Trinity School, 4301 Northside Parkway. Hours are February 18-20: 8am-4pm; February 21: 10am-2pm. See you there!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

BWH "Friends" is sponsoring "Swingin' in the Park" Sunday May 16 at 5:00 pm.

Bring your picnic basket & blanket and listen to the music of "The Big Peach Swing Band" !!!

Proceeds to benefit Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Please remember to keep debris out of the street. It clogs up the already overtaxed drains and contributes to flooding in and around the park. Please ask your lawn service people to not blow leaves into the street.

Native Plants in the Brookwood Hills Park

By Walter Bland

Everyone knows what a wonderful place Brookwood Hills Park is because every one has enjoyed a cool swim in the pool on a hot summer day, or a Sunday afternoon at the park with the kids, or a morning walk along the trail. What you may not know is how unique our park is as a native forest habitat.

Before the first settlers came to this area of Georgia, before the Cherokees and the Creeks and the woodland Indians before them, almost the entire eastern half of the country was covered by a primeval forest. Here in the Piedmont of Georgia, there was a mixed hardwood forest dominated by oaks, hickories, beech, and some pine. With the immigration of native Americans to the Southeast and to a much larger degree European settlers came *disturbance* of the forest habitat in the form of logging for timber and agriculture. Most ecologists believe that there is little undisturbed habitat in the East and none in the Piedmont of Georgia.

It takes a very long time for a forest to recover from disturbance, and that's why the Brookwood Hills forest is so unique. My guess is that the forest around the park has not been cut in at least 120 years, or perhaps longer. It is what is called an "old-growth" forest. I believe this to be the case because of the size of the Beech trees around the park and on Parkdale. Beech trees are very slow growing, and so the exceptionally large specimens in the Brookwood Hills forest are remarkably old.

The Brookwood Hills forest is mixed hardwood, ravine forest. Some ecologists refer to such a forest with a large number of Beech trees as a "Beech glen." When you look at the forest, you will notice three distinct layers: the *canopy*, the *sub-canopy/shrublayer*, and the *ground layer*. The canopy is dominated by Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) and on the upper part of the slope the hickories, Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*) and Mockernut Hickory (*Cary tomentosa*).

You can recognize the Beech trees by their smooth, light grey bark (people often carve their initials into it) and by the buff colored leaves that stay on the tree through the winter. We also have some exceptionally large White Oaks, which are also very slow growing, with their shaggy light grey bark and vase-like structure. You can recognize the Northern Red Oaks by the black with silver streaks that run up and down their trunks. Tulip Poplars are often some of the largest trees in a forest and recognized by their deeply furrowed brown bark and by the curious lime green tulip-shaped flower in the Spring.

In the sub-canopy and shrub layer, we have some native trees that everyone should recognize: Dogwoods (*Cornus florida*), Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*), and Cherries (*Prunus* sp.). A few that you may not be familiar with are Sourwood (*Oxydendron arboreum*), Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) and Umbrella Magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*). This latter tree is NOT the evergreen magnolia which you may have planted in your yard as landscape tree (that one is native to the coastal plain of Georgia), but rather a deciduous Magnolia, with exceptionally large leaves and large cream colored blooms. We also have many terrific native shrubs such as Dwarf Pawpaw (*Asimia parviflora*), Hearts-a-bustin (*Euonymus americanus*), our native Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), which produces a very delicate, flat, white bloom, Sweet-shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*), our native bamboo (*Arundinaria gigantea*). You will also find Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*), a vine which climbs up to the openings in the canopy and produces a yellow and orange bloom similar to a Trumpet vine.

Because the canopy in the park is so dense and there is abundant moisture, the ground layer would support a very rich constellation of herbaceous plants. Unfortunately, the ground layer in Brookwood Hills Park is covered by English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), which is an invasive exotic plant much like Kudzu. In addition to being a breeding ground for the mosquitoes that eat us alive in the Summer, the ivy smothers the native plants that would otherwise be abundant (I can't complain too loudly since my front yard is covered with it too). Still, I have found many fascinating native herbaceous plants on the ground layer including Whippoor-Will Flower (*Trillium cuneatum*), a plant with three mottled leaves and maroon petals, Heartleaf ginger (*Hexastylis arifolia*), Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) and several others.

None of these plants taken individually is especially remarkable. As a grouping, however, they are remarkable, especially since they comprise a native habitat in the midst of a metropolis of over four million people. I hope we can continue to protect and enhance this little piece of Nature.

If any of you are interested in doing a native plant "walk" sometime in the Spring, send an e-mail to me at jwbland@bellsouth.net, and we'll organize something.

Excerpted from the Brookwood By Word, Summer of '74

Mrs. Burdett Remembers

By Elaine Luxemberger

Do not call her elderly or worse yet that euphemism "Senior Citizen"! She is, she says, a young lady who has lived a long time. She is Mrs. Sadie Burdett, whose husband, Arthur and father-in-law Benjamin Franklin Burdett, developed Brookwood Hills fifty years ago.

As envisioned then, it was to be a neighborhood of substantial homes owned by well-established professional and business people. To insure the quality of houses, a minimum house cost of \$10,000 was required. Huntington Road property had a minimum cost of \$7500. Brookwood Hills then was Palisades, Northwood, Woodcrest, and Huntington as far as Palisades. "New" Brookwood Hills was developed later and included parts of Brighton, Camden, Montclair, Wakefield, Parkdale, and the remaining portion of Huntington.

Three original residents recently reminisced about these early days. In addition to Mrs. Burdett, there were her neighbors at 84 Palisades, Mrs. Thomas Lewis, Mary who bought and built in 1924, and a new Brookwood Hills resident Mrs. W. Griggs Shaefer, of 51 Camden, who built in 1927. Mrs. Burdett's daughter Polly Miles added some childhood memories.

Mr. B. F. Burdett was remembered well and was considered the most popular gentleman in Brookwood Hills—all the ladies loved him! It was Mr. B.F. with his helpers "Pink" and "Green" who planted the oak trees along the streets that have become the neighborhood's most distinctive feature. But he also planted two flowering crepe myrtle bushes between each oak.

Mr. B.F.'s house stood on Peachtree. Behind it were pastures and corn fields. Polly Miles remembers running through these corn fields to her grandfather's barn which on Palisades. The barn was later burned on Halloween night, possibly by neighborhood boys. Beyond the barn was a rushing creek which was later covered by Parkdale way, the Present entrance to the park.

The first house in the subdivision was built by the Arthur Burdetts at 10 Palisades. Every family seemed to have had servants either living in rooms on the property or coming by the street car that ran down the middle of Peachtree. The fare was 10¢—not too far from MARTA's 15¢ fare today. There were cooks, laundresses, nurses, and combination handy men—furnace stokers—chauffeurs.

Around Brookwood station, long before the expressway intruded, were stores where the neighborhood shopped for groceries. Mrs. Burdett said if you called "Kampers Grocery", they would deliver everyday. Across Peachtree from the station were cleaners and other commercial establishments used by the residents. Later there were an A&P store at the corner of Brighton and a Colonial store at Palisades and Peachtree.

Most of the children attended E. Rivers Elementary School and North Fulton High School, driven in riding groups frequently by chauffeurs. Much of the land was wooded and the children had great fun with woods to play in. Mrs. Lewis recalled a very high tree house; only a few were in the select group allowed to ascend. There was even an elevator bucket for the dogs!

Clear Creek was a favorite place for children with a swinging bridge "one board wide" across it. In the spring, the bottom land was purple with violets and the children would bring back wash-buckets full. Mrs. Lewis's husband and son frequently hunted in this area and would always return with quail for supper.

Another popular place for the children to gather was Brighton Road, a dead end street. Before the lots were built on, it was the perfect place for hockey and games, and for roller skating right in the middle.

There was a good deal of socializing among the neighbors. Because of the availability of servants, the women were greatly involved in volunteer work at Sheltering Arts or in garden club projects. Doors were rarely locked: You just didn't think about it!

CLASSIFIEDS

COTTAGE FOR RENT: Charming SEASIDE, FLORIDA cottage available for rent from owners at below-market rates. Various dates available. Sleeps 6. Call Kathy Bernhardt (404-874-5067) or Esther Stokes (404-876-1809).

CHAIRS FOR SALE: High-end reproduction Chippendale dining room chairs purchased at ADAC. Six side chairs, 2 armchairs each with scroll-carved pierced back slats and straight legs. Excellent condition. Priced to sell at \$1,500.00 for set. 404-853-1655

REPAIR/REMODELING RECOMMENDATION: If you are starting home repairs or remodeling projects, we recommend Johnny Reynolds of All About Remodeling. Johnny is currently performing a variety of projects on our home, and we are not the first Brookwood Hills residents to use him. His work and desire to please are very professional. Johnny does any type of work, large or small. He can be reached at 770-949-5383.

ANTIQUES FOR SALE: Antique carved chair from Old Deerfield, Mass and beautiful rosewood MELODEON, circa 1830. Recently reconditioned. Can be used for music or closed as an exquisite piece of furniture. For information: 404-872-6145

PET SITTER: Going out of town and in need of a responsible adult to house or pet sit? Please call (404) 315-1072. BWH resident references are available upon request.

NEIGHBOR NEWS

Brennan Elizabeth Law was born January 28th to parents Agnes and Pete of 77 Huntington. She weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. Big brother Pete is thrilled to have a baby girl while brother Thomas is staking out territory.

RESTAURANT EUGENE OPENS THIS SPRING

Brookwood Boy and Wife are Restaurateurs

Linton Hopkins, raised at 95 Wakefield Drive, is now a CIA-trained chef who has come back home. He and his wife Gina are realizing their dream close to Brookwood at 2277 Peachtree Road in the new Aramore development, across from Panera Bread.

Fancy dress is not required but be prepared for big city ambience, a fine dining experience and the best service in town. Also, special treats may appear following the magic words, "I'm a friend of the family from Brookwood Hills." Check out the menu at www.restauranteugene.com.

BROOKNOTES

sponsored by your neighbor

Sarah Hagood

Owner/Broker

Office 404-231-5678

*Specialty
Homes
Inc.*

*"Selling Select Properties
from the Quaint to the
Grande."*

Residence 404-881-0808