Betton Hills Neighborhood Association
Winter, 2011
www.mybettonhills.org
Facebook: Betton Hills Neighborhood Association

Arbor Day 2011

By Donna Legare

Saturday, February 5th 9am – 11am
McCord Park – meet at the martin pole

We have been planting native trees and shrubs, as well as fruit trees, in neighborhood parks on Arbor Day for many years. This year, we will mulch the past plantings and hang martin gourds at McCord and Harriman and clean woodduck houses and bluebird houses at McCord.

Last year some neighbors brought canoes and cleaned litter from McCord Pond. It could use a good cleaning again, so bring a canoe if you want to work on this. We will provide large plastic bags.

If we have enough volunteers, I would like for us to clear one small area of the woods adjacent to the paved path of invasive exotic plants. If you want to work on this, please bring shovels for ardisia removal. We will plant a native tree or shrub near this area since the City removed a large invasive ligustrum tree at our request.

One crew will work the perimeter of McCord Pond, removing Chinese ligustrum (privet) and Chinese tallow.

We will definitely do some planting. We will finalize plans at our January board meeting; please try to attend if you have some ideas or contact me at 386-1148.

Bring garden gloves, hand saws, shovels and loppers if you have them. Hope you can join us – this is always a fun event and a great way to get to know your neighbors.

Talgov

By Melissa Jacoby

The city of Tallahassee's website is **www.talgov.com**. It provides a wide variety of news and information about city government. You can find information about services such as insulation grants and appliance rebates, road closures, commission meetings and upcoming events. You can also provide feedback to city officials and report problems such as burned-out streetlights, missing road signs or trash pickup. You can also sign up to receive email notifications on a variety of topics. Try it. I think you'll like it.

BHNA President's Message Winter 2010

By Tom Schulte

HELD OVER BY POPULAR DEMAND, I am still your neighborhood association president. 2010 was a good year for our neighborhood. We started the year with our annual Arbor Day event. My daughter Layne and I enjoyed planting trees together in McCord Park. Layne was especially excited that Jody Legare wrote an article for the Tallahassee Democrat, discussing the benefits of planting trees for the environment and used her picture. She thought she was a minor celebrity at school, after her teacher brought in a copy of the picture, and she was able to tell her classmates about her experience. We plan to hold our 2011 Arbor Day event on February 5th, from 9-11 a.m. Please join us and help plant new trees and bushes in the park and in cleaning up of the pond.

This was an election year, which always brings out more candidates and elected officials to our events. The Spring event was no exception, we had several candidates for office as well as elected officials in attendance, a good crowd and the weather was wonderful. Bill Jones and his band also entertained us all with their great sounds.

In October we enjoyed the Fall Social in Winthrop Park, with yet another great turn out. There was plenty of ice cream and the kids enjoyed the arts and crafts and we all enjoyed the Leon Steel Drum Band.

Bill Jones once again provided the caroling music Christmas Eve at Harriman Circle. I know that everyone who attended really enjoyed themselves and it is a wonderful tradition. Thank you Bill, for sharing your musical talents with the neighborhood yet again.

Betton Hills is fortunate we do have two officers for the Tallahassee Police Department who handle crime watch prevention. Officer Andy Berentsen (Andy.Berentsen@talgov.com) and Officer Delonna Hartley Hartley(DelonnaHartley@talgov.com) are both very helpful regarding recent crime issues in the neighborhood. Please remember to look out for your neighbors and call TPD's non emergency number (891-4200) if you see suspicious activities in the neighborhood.

Remember that we have a web page which provides updates on all neighborhood events and happenings. Thank you to Mary Kay Falconer, who has served as our web master the last few years.

Finally, the Board continues to meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Club Apartments pool house. All are welcome and the meetings are informative and provide an opportunity to express your concerns about happenings in the neighborhood.

SAVE THE DATE!

By Margie McInnes

What: Betton Hills Neighborhood Association Annual Springtime Gathering
When: Sunday, May 1, 2011
Time: 3 - 5 p.m.
Where: Winthrop Park Pavillion
Why: Meet your neighbors, listen to music, enjoy a few snacks. Further details will follow!

BHNA Fall Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social

By Melissa Jacoby

On October 24, 2010, neighbors gathered at Winthrop Park for the BHNA Fall Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social. President Tom Schulte thanked current board members for their work and encouraged more residents to serve on the board. The Leon High School Steel Band provided musical entertainment.

Betton Hills Neighborhood Ponds & Fishing

By Eric Thorn

One of the fun features of our neighborhood is our many ponds. Many of these ponds support a healthy fish population that helps keep the pond in balance and make it more esthetically pleasing. Our ponds are also a great place to introduce our neighborhood's children to the fun of fishing.

City Ordinance # 88-0-0167 allows fishing in city ponds by children 14 years of age and under with adult supervision and those over 65. While it varies from pond to pond "catch and release" is generally recommended. This limitation provides that there will be plenty of fun fish for the kids to catch. This can be a great summer activity and just another great feature of our neighborhood.

Unfortunately this summer an issue has arisen impacting our neighborhood park ponds. Men from outside our neighborhood have been aggressively taking fish from our neighborhood ponds. Individuals and small groups of up to three 3 men with white buckets and coolers have been seen fishing. They have been keeping virtually every fish they catch and one occasion 3 men at Harriman Pond filled a cooler with 25 or 30 fish. Needless to say they have decimated the fish population in that pond. Men have also been seen taking fish from the pond on Laguna and also at the lower McCord pond adjacent to Kline Street.

This is troubling for two reasons. Our neighborhood children, several of whom were regularly catching and releasing fish from the local ponds this summer, will be deprived of this great neighborhood recreational activity next summer if this continues. Also, the decline in the water clarity and increase in weeds and muck in the ponds where a considerable portion of the fish have been removed is significant.

There's no harm in a neighbor catching and releasing a few fish at one of the ponds. However, we need your help to discourage those who are taking the fish out of our neighborhood ponds.

At most of the ponds the "no fishing" is clearly posted however the ordinance applies to all city ponds whether posted or not. We have contacted the city and the have replaced many of the older signs. The signs clearly state that city ordinance # 88-0-0167 prohibits fishing unless you are 14 and under with adult supervision or over 65.

If you see these men who are taking fish please write down (or take a camera phone picture of) their license plate information. You could inform them that fishing is not allowed by those over 14 and under 65. Also, please call the non-emergency Tallahassee Police # at 891-4200 and report them.

With your help our lovely ponds and a fun summertime activity for Betton Hills residents and their children will continue to be enjoyed for many years to come.

City of Tallahassee Neighborhood Leadership Academy

By Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey

The City of Tallahassee conducted the Neighborhood Leadership Academy this fall and I represented the Betton Hills neighborhood. The academy is for neighborhood leaders and representatives interested in learning more about the operations of City services. Over 12 neighborhood representatives met once a week from September through December 5th. Each week focused on a unique aspect of the city's services—fire, power, planning, transportation, parks, garbage and recycling, and more. During our time together, an overview of services was presented along with key contact information and a rare opportunity to meet and discuss issues with commissioners, department heads, and field staff. Most weeks also featured "hands-on" activities. This included many "firsts"- driving a city bus through a "simulation lab" and putting out a car fire with the able help of firefighters.

Another benefit to the neighborhood was that the leadership academy afforded the opportunity to build a notebook of information and contacts that will serve the neighborhood association in seeking out the right person for the right information.

The Academy is offered through the City's Neighborhood Services, is a free service, and I would strongly encourage participation. Starting in late-summer, look for academy registration information on the City of Tallahassee website.

Harriman Circle's Christmas Carols

By Bill Jones

On December 24, 2010 4:00 pm the 38th annual Christmas Caroling at Harriman Pond was held with a beautiful backdrop of white and grey herons flying in and out of the park and sound of joyous voices singing Christmas songs of years past. Bill Jones, who lives on Harriman Circle and Randy Hoch, a nearby resident, provided the guitar music and almost 80 happy souls created the setting of something you heard at the beginning of the movie "A Christmas Story". Only there were no kids with their tongues stuck to cold poles or children with fake teeth, to be taken up by any grownups. There were people present who had been coming to the Caroling event since the beginning, 1972 and others from the 80', 90's and 2000's. There were even people who didn't live in the Betton Hills area. There was one young woman with her daughter visiting from England and also the two little blond girls who knew all of the kids songs. Everyone commented on what a great time they had, for just that 30 minute time span and extolled how they would be back next year. Each year the crowd seems to get larger and that's just great. Next year we hope to have even more musicians. This is a tradition that brings back the memories of our youth and builds memories of those just starting to accumulate fond memories. We hope to see you next year.

10 Year Anniversary

By Andrew Grayson

Mat and Margaret lead in the rescue and recording of over 400 turtles, 200+ amphiuma and sirenia salamanders, plus dozens of snakes (all non venomous) and thousands of fishes from McCord and Trescott ponds. The storm water project subsequently drained the entire area bone dry (from Ashford Club to Laguna).

Foxes in our Neighborhoods

By Sandy Beck

We live in Midtown Tallahassee in Betton Hills. There has been a fox running around the neighborhood this month. Would St. Francis Wildlife relocate it? I have seen several foxes run over on Thomasville Road, and was hoping to prevent that outcome for this fox. Thanks for your advice.
Amy

Every spring, we receive dozens of phone calls and emails like this one from people who are concerned about seeing normally nocturnal animals out during the day. They worry that these animals may be sick or might tangle with their pets. People also worry about them getting hit by cars. Many ask us to trap them.

People are seeing more foxes and raccoons during the day because this is "baby season," and they are working day and night to feed their babies.

Baby foxes play and chase each other, just like puppies. Unfortunately, mama doesn't teach them to look both ways before crossing the street. It is so sad to see these beautiful animals dead on the road.

Tallahassee is rich with wildlife, even downtown. Trapping and relocating one of these animals is pointless, because another individual will soon move in to fill the empty niche. These are also wily animals ("smart as a fox"), and it is nearly impossible to lure a healthy individual into a trap.

One way to help them is to encourage neighbors to not feed wild mammals. Feeding concentrates them in unhealthy numbers and exposes them to traffic and pets. In Florida, it is also illegal to feed foxes, raccoons and bears.

At our web site, stfranciswildlife.org, scroll down to "Help Wildlife" and download a "Drive Slowly, Baby Foxes" sign. Print on large sheets of colored card stock, laminate and post around your neighborhood.

Since I've done this in our neighborhood, we haven't found any dead foxes, and we have a very large fox population.

Make sure pets' vaccinations up to date. Keep small pets inside, and feed all pets indoors. Never touch foxes or any wild mammals, even babies. If you find a sick or injured animal or an orphaned baby, call us. Florida's squirrels, opossums and rabbits are not known to carry rabies.

Feeding squirrels will also attract their predator, the fox. Install baffles on bird feeder poles and spray poles with cooking oil to thwart squirrels and raccoons.

Then just relax and enjoy the surprise of a beautiful fox, with his long bushy tail, trotting across your lawn.

The Contributors to BHNA Newcomers Bags: Thanksgiving 2010

By Andrew Grayson

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association wishes to thank the following businesses and individuals for their respective contributors to the BHNA welcome bags. BHNA endeavors to welcome those who move into the neighborhood with a welcome bag. Each welcome bag includes gifts, coupons, and edibles along with information about the neighborhood. Thanks also goes to Dean Hansen and his other volunteers who collect these goodies, assemble and deliver the bags!

Premier Bank
Sun Trust Bank
Nauman Group
Beef 'O' Brady's
Rapid Refill Inks
Jim Wells Tire Center
The Great Bicycle Shop
Native Nurseries
Tomato Land
The Natural Healthy Pet
Tallahassee Nurseries
Bernice at Betton
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HobbyTown USA
Decorator Fabrics
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Sweet Patina
Margie McInnes

We Thank our Neighbors for Paying Their 2011 BHNA Mmembership Dues

If your name is not on this list, please renew your membership today!

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BETTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 15612, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317-5612

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Enter your donation amounts, name and addresses. Make checks payable to BHNA.

Send your form and check today (address above). Thanks!

It's winter so the tiny yellow-rumped warblers are thick in the wax myrtles that border McCord Pond. Come see them!

Betton Hills Neighborhood Association
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