



THE PRESERVATION PRESS

VISIT THE NATURE PRESERVE

a publication of



Clyde Shepherd
NATURE PRESERVE

managed by South Peachtree
Creek Nature Preserve, Inc.

Directions to the Preserve:

The Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve is a 28-acre wildlife sanctuary with the entrance located on Pine Bluff Drive in Decatur. Take Medlock Road to Medlock School and turn right onto Wood Trail Lane. Continue past the stop sign at Harrington Drive. The entrance to the Preserve is one block straight ahead.

Visit our website: cshpherdpreserve.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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As the weather gets cooler and the autumn leaves begin to fall, a visit to Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve (CSNP) offers a great family outing. Living in the neighborhood, I enjoy evening walks nearly every day, no matter what time of year. With the change of season, volunteering to help mulch trails, remove invasive plants, and work on special projects at CSNP becomes even more enjoyable. Our monthly workdays are also a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbors, make new friends, and help improve both your community and the environment.

We're always looking for volunteers to help on our workdays, with special events, and in many other areas. For the upcoming Harvest Festival on Saturday, November 8, from 4-8 p.m., we'll need volunteers to help set up, serve food, manage children's crafts, and clean up. Please contact us as soon as possible if you're interested.

CSNP is a volunteer-run, 501(c)(3) organization that depends on community support both in time and dollars. Please join us by contributing a few hours of your time to help preserve this beautiful neighborhood treasure, and don't forget to make a tax-deductible contribution by the end of the year.

Thank you!
Madeline Reamy

NINTH ANNUAL HARVEST CELEBRATION, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8 2008, 4-8 P.M.

Take your mind off the hard times and come enjoy the sights and sounds of nature on an autumn evening at Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve's ninth annual Harvest Celebration on Saturday, November 8, from 4-8 p.m. Come bring the family to enjoy music, crafts, nature walks, and a warm campfire with your neighbors. **Guests are invited to bring a picnic dinner this year and CSNP will provide the marshmallows, hot chocolate and other soft drinks, and light snacks.** Children can hunt for pumpkins and create crafts to take home. *The Beans*, a popular Decatur ensemble consisting of Atlanta acoustic scene veterans Cyndi Craven, Allison Adams, and Billy Gewin, will perform. Their repertoire includes originals by band members and a fun assortment of cover songs ranging from Tin Pan Alley tunes to classic pop. Locally grown produce will be available for sale. Chris Beck will again demonstrate his wonderful home composting system. A donation of \$3 to support our programs at the nature preserve is suggested.

Dave Butler

WHERE HAVE THE BEAVERS GONE?

People often ask where the beavers and other aquatic wildlife go when the pond dries up as it does almost every year. Since our pond was constructed to hold storm water and was not meant as a permanent lake, it functions more as wetlands that are flooded during the wet months. Fish are carried in from the stream as the creek overflows its banks and other wildlife such as frogs, crayfish, and aquatic insects like dragonflies colonize the wet environment. The beavers rebuild their den and come out at dusk to cut maples and river birch for food and building materials. River otters, turtles, ducks, and muskrats all take advantage of the pond for food, shelter, and to raise their young.

When the pond again dries up in the summer, the beavers move back to the creek and burrow into the bank for shelter or build other dens elsewhere in the watershed. Animals that can fly, crawl, or hop away also go back to the stream. Fish, tadpoles, and insect larvae that can't get back to the stream die as the pond waters recede. One benefit of the shrinking pond to birds like the Blue Heron and Kingfisher is that the fish are congregated in a smaller area and the birds have a feast.

In this way, our wetland is similar to the great Pantanal in Brazil and other vast wetlands around the globe that provide a highly productive but temporary home for thousands of species of animals and show us why the protection of wetlands is so important to life on earth.



Dave Butler

Photo by Henry Ohme



Curious About Critters:
Insect Tour Review
on September 27.
Photos by Edward
Kujawski.
See article on p. 2.

CURIOUS ABOUT CRITTERS: INSECT TOUR REVIEW

CSNP offered a popular family program on Saturday, September 27 — *Curious About Critters: Insect Tour*. This was the first time the program has been offered since 2005, and it always draws large crowds.

Led by Dr. Fred Sherberger, a retired entomologist from Fernbank Science Center, more than 25 children and their parents enjoyed discovering a wide range of insects in this catch and release, hands-on program. They joyfully followed the “Pied Piper” leader for nearly two hours, stopping many times along the trails and marching out into the Beaver Pond area, now completely dry and high with grasses. Among insects, grasshoppers were abundant, as were bees, cicadas and ants. There were also many spiders. At the end of the trip, all the “critters” collected were released to continue their lives.

Thank you to all who joined us for this fun event. Watch for upcoming information on future *Curious About Critters* programs and mark your calendar now for Saturday, May 2, for a *Curious About Critters* adventure with reptiles and amphibians.

Madeline Reamy

HOT TO TROT RUN AT CSNP

On August 2, the Georgia Ultrarunning & Trailrunning Society (GUTS) staged the 8th annual *Hot to Trot 8 Hour Run* at CSNP. Beginning at 8:00 a.m., 48 runners ran a 1.12 mile route, looping around the Beaver Pond each time, attempting to run as many miles as possible in eight hours. Race director Sarah Tynes focused on runner safety, setting up tables at the picnic area where they could get snacks and drinks throughout the day. Runners donated \$400 to the preserve and raved about its beauty. GUTS hopes to return to CSNP for the 2009 race. More information about the race and GUTS can be found at www.getguts.com.



Sarah Tynes

Sponsorships

We invite your business or organization to sponsor events in the future. For more information call 404-728-1411, email info@cshepherdpreserve.org, or visit our web site at <http://www.cshepherdpreserve.org>.



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CLYDE SHEPHERD PRESERVE UPCOMING WORKDAYS

Please join us to help remove nonnative invasive plants, mulch trails, develop gardens, and in the process make new friends. All are welcome! Please note that children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.



photos by Hank Ohme

- Saturday, November 8, 9-12, Harvest Festival preparations
- Saturday, December 7, 1-4
- Saturday, January 19, 9-1, MLK Service Day
- Sunday, February 8, 1-4
- Saturday, March 7, 9-12
- Sunday, April 5, 9-12
- Saturday, May 2, 9-12
- Sunday, June 7, 9-12

GEORGIA STATE STUDENTS AT CSNP

For the past three years, Fran Rundlett, professor of plant biology at Georgia State University, has taken her plant biology students on field trips to the Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve.

It's a fantastic place to illustrate the unit she teaches on various plant communities and how they're influenced by various regimes of water and available light. The students take notes to characterize the wetland meadow (which may or may not have standing water), the mature pine forest, the upland hardwood forest, and the forested wetland. They also take note of which species are regenerating in those areas, and they conduct a basic exercise in measuring stand biomass.

Professor Rundlett provides each student with a copy of *Native Trees of Georgia*, courtesy of the Georgia Forestry Commission, which gives them a good chance to work on their tree identification skills. Finally, they observe the impact of invasive species, and the difficulty of managing an in-town preserve.

The students are primarily biology majors interested in medical careers, so this is often the first opportunity they have to do field work. After this experience, they become curious about the natural environment and are certainly better-informed citizens about managing Georgia's natural areas. They love it!

And the plant biology class isn't the only one that benefits from CSNP. Professor Robbie Smith, who teaches ecology, also takes his students to the preserve and has established permanent monitoring plots.

Fran Rundlett

SUPPORTER APPLICATION

Application *Supporter*

If you would like to become a supporter or if you already are a supporting member of the Clyde Shepherd Preserve, please consider a tax deductible donation. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and donations are used directly for maintenance and improvements in the preserve. We receive no financial assistance from DeKalb County and depend on our neighbors, local businesses, and grants for our funding. Please mail this application with your donation to:

Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve
c/o South Peachtree Creek Nature Preserve, Inc.
P.O. Box 33247
Decatur, GA 30033

Name _____
Address _____
E-mail _____ Phone _____
Contribution: \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$10 _____ Other _____

Would you be interested in volunteering for workdays and special events? Yes ___ No ___
Would you like to receive the newsletter only in your email box? Yes ___ No ___