



THE OAKLAND HERALD



HISTORIC OAKLAND FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER ❖ VOLUME 25, NUMBER 2 ❖ FALL 2010



HISTORIC OAKLAND CEMETERY • A NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER SITE • EST. 1850

➤ DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF OAKLAND,

What a glorious spring and summer we had at Oakland!
It was nice to leave our cold winter behind and once again
watch the magic of spring come alive.

Our Landscape Committee has been able to plant a variety of winter and spring flowering trees, compliments of the 2008 tornado that visited Oakland. Volunteer gardeners also added bulbs, roses, and various perennials to the restored areas of Phase I and Phase II, which includes the grounds in front of the Bell Tower.

Along with the return of spring, we observed many individuals, families, and the occasional pooch enjoying a stroll around our grounds. Oakland continues to be a favorite spot in Atlanta for photography and as an outing for painting classes.

Spring also brings busload after busload of middle school students to Oakland for the eighth grade history tour written by Larry Upthegrove, an Oakland board member and tour guide. This tour presents Atlanta’s development, the Civil War, and the years of reconstruction. Our spring and summer events, (continued on page 4)

➤ “AFRICAN AMERICAN VOICES” CELL PHONE TOUR

Be among the first to know when Oakland’s first cell phone tour, “African American Voices,” is available. Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.oaklandcemetery.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

10/3	Sunday in the Park
10/22, 23, 24	Capturing the Spirit of Oakland—Halloween Tours
10/30	Run Like Hell 5K and Fun Run
11/7	Descendants’ Day

TOURS

Weekend Twilight Tours, through Oct. 17
Weekend Walking Tours, through Nov. 28
See website for topics and times.

OUR MISSION

The Historic Oakland Foundation partners with the City of Atlanta to preserve, restore, enhance, and share Oakland Cemetery with the public as an important cultural resource and an island of tranquility in the heart of the city.

COVER PHOTO © 2010 Denny Addison

OAKLAND'S SPECTACULAR FALL EVENTS



Don't miss our fall events! Whether you don your Victorian garb or feel more comfortable in jeans, Sunday in the Park has something for everyone. The Halloween season brings your chance to tour Oakland after dark and to participate in the country's largest cemetery run. Join us!

➤ SUNDAY IN THE PARK

Join us for Atlanta's most unique festival! The 31st annual Victorian-themed Sunday in the Park will be held on Sunday, October 3, from noon to 6:00 p.m. Last year Oakland hosted more than 5,000 people, and this year an even larger attendance is anticipated.

Musical groups will perform at the Lion Square Stage, as well as throughout the cemetery. Don't miss the final Atlanta appearance of Doug Lothes performing *Gone with the Wind in Twenty Minutes*. North Public Grounds will be the site of the children's area, featuring crafts, a teddy bear tea, and a visit from Zoo Atlanta's traveling animal exhibit. The Bubble Man will be back by popular demand!

There will be storytellers, great food and drinks, beautiful handcrafted items from a variety of local and regional artists, and free walking tours. The festival features entertainment and activities for all ages!

➤ HALLOWEEN TOURS

Once and only once a year are the gates of Oakland opened to visitors after dark. Purchase your tickets early for our fifth annual "Capturing the Spirit of Oakland" Halloween tours. Always a sellout, the dates for this year's event are October 22, 23, and 24.

Visitors will enjoy Oakland in a totally different light, as

they are guided down beautifully illuminated pathways to the graves of distinguished residents portrayed by costumed actors sharing their life and times. Various entertainers will also perform nightly at the Bell Tower, and food and drink will be available.

No tickets will be sold at the gate, so purchase yours in advance at www.oaklandcemetery.com.

➤ RUN LIKE HELL AND RUN LIKE HECK

On October 30 Oakland's third annual Run Like Hell 5K and Run Like Heck Fun Run will be held. Register early to secure a spot—the race will be capped at 1,500 participants.

Beginning deep in the cemetery, the 5K will wind through the Grant Park neighborhood before finishing back in the heart of the cemetery. One-of-a-kind race awards will be given in multiple age categories. All preregistered entrants will receive the 2010 event T-shirt sporting the nationally award-winning Run Like Hell/Run Like Heck logo.

Register online at www.active.com or download a form at www.running4fitness.com or www.oaklandcemetery.com. Also register at Phidippides shoe store in Ansley Mall.

TO VOLUNTEER OR FOR EVENT SPONSORSHIP
INFORMATION, CONTACT MARY WOODLAN:
MWOODLAN@OAKLANDCEMETERY.COM OR (404) 688-2107.

RESTORATION AND LANDSCAPE

Historic Oakland Foundation's award-winning preservation efforts continue year round.

ENDANGERED MARKER SAVED

In May Oakland's restoration crew encountered a situation that was entirely new: a grave collapse, which partially exposed its contents to the elements. The collapse occurred as the crew was leveling a leaning obelisk grave marker over the grave of pioneer settler and major landholder Ammi Williams in preparation for a landscape installation.

Williams came to the area in the 1830s and acquired land lot 78, which included much of the land on which downtown Atlanta now stands. He sold land to the original congregation of Wesley Chapel Church and is credited with building the oldest house in DeKalb County that is still standing, the Swanton House in Decatur. Williams Street in downtown Atlanta is named for Ammi Williams.

Unbeknownst to our staff, the brick vault that housed Williams was beginning to cave due to the immense weight of the marble obelisk, and the collapse occurred when we tried to lift the leaning monument. Kevin Kuharic, former restoration director, remarked, "Oakland doesn't come with an instruction manual."

The restoration crew, naming the project "The Oakland Situation," quickly consulted with State Archeologist Dr. David Crass and Doug Young, of the Atlanta Urban Design Commission. The decision was made to rebuild the collapsed portion of the vault and to move the obelisk 8 feet east to remove its weight from the vault.

This article is by David Westbrook, an Oakland intern and graduate student in the Heritage Preservation Program at Georgia State University.

HISTORIC PLANTS AT OAKLAND

Did you see Oakland's daffodils in early spring? They were lovely, their yellow color brightening the gray days. Many of our plantings have been in place for years, but hundreds more have been planted over the last three years.

In December 2007 we received a generous gift of period bulbs from Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, Virginia, and Ashe-Simpson Nursery in Chamblee. These were planted near the Bell Tower and had just begun to bloom when the tornado struck in March 2008. Daffodils are often

used as a symbol of resurrection, and they promised us that Oakland would recover from the tornado just as Atlanta had been resurrected so many years ago.

In March 2009 we were invited by the Georgia Daffodil Society to participate with them to rescue small, yellow trumpet daffodils called Lent Lilies (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) from an old homesite slated for development. Our landscape volunteers met in the freezing rain in Dawsonville to bring hundreds of bulbs back to Oakland. Again in March 2010 we were invited to return, and this time our volunteers filled the back of two pickup trucks. Additionally, the Georgia Daffodil Society supported us in 2010 with a gift of rescued daffodils, this time Twin Sisters (*Narcissus x. medio-luteus*). This double form is one of the most durable historic in the South. Both of these varieties were doubtlessly planted by families when Oakland was young, and we are pleased to return them to the grounds.

We know that blue hyacinths were one of the plants originally grown in Oakland's greenhouse, and we are excited to have them again. H. M. Patterson & Son Spring Hill has a great number of Spanish Bluebells (*Scilla hispanica*) naturalized in the woods, and they graciously allowed us to take as many as we wanted. These were dug and replanted by our dedicated volunteers in March 2010. Other spring bulbs that have been planted recently include Lady Tulips (*Tulipa clusiana*), a dainty tulip that returns each spring; Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*); and Starflower (*Ipheion uniflorum*).

Daffodils and hyacinths are but a few of the many historical plants being replanted on the grounds in keeping with period traditions. On August 23, 1879, a letter to the editor of *The Atlanta Constitution* answered a mother's question of what plants would be most suitable for her daughter's grave at Oakland, with a list of many plants including bulbs. It goes on to say, "There is many a narrow home in the cemetery surrounded by beautiful flowers. Perhaps many of them when in life delighted in the cultivation of flowers, and what more fitting tribute to their memory than to clothe their resting places with the flowers they loved so well?"

This article is by Oakland Trustee Sara Henderson.



Initial restoration work in Oakland's Jewish section (seen above and right) is now complete thanks to fund-raising by board members Ann Uhry Abrams and Norman Asher.



➤ MOORE ON OAKLAND

Have you ever started a jigsaw puzzle and wondered how you would ever get all those pieces to fit together? Then you find one or two pieces that do fit, and the others seem to follow naturally? Sometimes Oakland is like that to me—many pieces that need putting together literally and figuratively.

Last year Bob Cutrone of the DDC Corporation heard an ad for our Halloween tours on 1680 AM Atlanta's "Voice of the Arts." DDC (Digital Data Capture) scans and digitizes records for the financial and healthcare industry worldwide—so Bob graciously offered digitalization services for all of the cemetery's burial records at no cost to Oakland! We now have a workable database from which we and the public can search our records easily and in many different ways. This work led to our first ever Descendants' Day reception, where families came to Oakland with their pictures, letters, articles, and oral histories, which we scanned into our new database. Putting together special events, public relations, and donated technology services resulted in more complete archives, better connections to the community, and MORE MEMBERS! Wow, I like the way this puzzle is coming together!

Another piece of the puzzle is our new relationship with the Georgia State Heritage Preservation Program, with whose students we have worked on various projects, including our Master Plan. Kevin Kuharic, director of restoration and landscape, recently left Oakland, but his former interns—longtime volunteer Mera Cardenas and David Westbrook—both of the Heritage Preservation Program, are now keeping the restoration office running and assisting Restoration Technician Dustin Hornsby with the overall responsibility of restoration at Oakland. Partnerships, interns, and mentor-

ing resulted in a smooth transition within the organization.

People notice when the puzzle is coming together. Perhaps that is why the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Parks Service, The Home Depot, the Georgia Forestry Commission, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Forbes.com, and the Atlanta Urban Design Commission have given us grants, donations, recognition, and awards of excellence over the last two years alone! Okay, the picture looks even brighter now! Let's keep the puzzle going!

David Moore
Executive Director, Historic Oakland Foundation

➤ CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

(continued from page 1)

Shindig, Descendants' Day, the Lecture Series, as well as our weekend tours have all been well attended. In June, Brooks Garcia, an Oakland trustee, led a group from the American Public Garden Association on an Oakland tour.

This spring Oakland welcomed Phillip Nelson of SunTrust to our Board of Trustees. He is a first vice president, client advisor in the Private Wealth Management Department. The Nelson family calls Ormewood Park home.

It is you, our members, our donors, our volunteers, and our sponsors, who make it possible for Historic Oakland Foundation to undertake the restoration of Oakland Cemetery. Please consider increasing the amount of your membership or donation—without your support we cannot restore this Atlanta treasure!

Libba Grace
Chairperson, Historic Oakland Foundation



On June 30 Kevin Kuharic (left) received an Atlanta Urban Design Commission Award of Excellence for his work with Oakland Cemetery. He recently left Oakland for a new post in Colorado.

FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK AND TWITTER
TO STAY CURRENT ON
ALL OAKLAND NEWS!

OAKLAND NEWS

➤ A FAREWELL TO KEVIN KUHARIC

In May the Foundation bid farewell to Kevin Kuharic. Since 2002 Kevin had served as Oakland's director of restoration and landscape. In all he had been at Oakland in some capacity for the last 21 years, as an employee, as a volunteer, and as co-owner of Gate City Landscape Company. Kevin received the 2003 Jenny D. Thurston Award for an Outstanding Preservation Professional by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission.

His thorough knowledge of the monuments and landscape of Oakland was invaluable during the aftermath of the tornado of 2008 and the subsequent repairs through the City of Atlanta and FEMA.

Kevin has now taken the opportunity to further his career by accepting the position of curator of the Hotel de Paris House Museum in Georgetown, Colorado. His contribution to and love of Oakland unquestionably are factors in making the cemetery the wonderful, unique place that it is today. A heartfelt thank-you to Kevin.

➤ HELP US SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES

May B. Hollis, the Foundation's development committee chairperson, is working to secure funds for the matching grant HOF received in December 2009 from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Oakland was awarded a \$200,000 Save America's Treasures grant, which we are required to match. The funds from the grant and the match we raise will be used for the restoration and preservation of Oakland's mausoleums. The majority of Oakland's mausoleums are more than 100 years old and are greatly in need of attention. The mausoleums are always a favorite of our many visitors, and this important grant will allow us to put them in good order for the next 100 years. Donations may be made by mailing a check to Oakland with a note designating the check for the match of the SAT grant. THANK YOU!

➤ STATE SENATE RECOGNITION

On March 10 Executive Director David Moore was presented a resolution from the Georgia State Senate. It read in part, "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate that the members of this body recognize and commend the Historic Oakland Foundation for its many accomplishments and contributions to Oakland Cemetery, the City of Atlanta, and the State of Georgia." We sincerely thank President of the Senate Casey Cagle, and Senators Nan Orrock and George Hooks and others for sponsoring this resolution.

➤ RECENT EVENTS RECAP

SHINDIG—Chaired by board member Virginia Brooks, Shindig was a huge success, with all proceeds benefiting landscape restoration at Oakland. Mark your calendar now for the 2011 Shindig, which will be held on March 27 at the Trees Atlanta Kendeda Center. Don't miss this fabulous party—and remember, it's for a great cause!

LECTURE SERIES—A talented duo of volunteers, Lisa Myers and Elizabeth Beasley, produced the 2010 Lecture Series. The Shed at Glenwood provided light refreshments for the series, which began in April and ends September 11. This series has been a very popular event, with interesting topics and sold-out crowds. The June 12 lecture, "Dog Days of Oakland: A Historic 'Tail' of the Atlanta Humane Society," invited guests to bring their four-legged friends!

DESCENDANTS' DAY—Oakland's first Descendants' Day was held on May 2, and we enjoyed hosting families with Oakland ties. Oakland Trustee Dianne Cannestra organized the Martha Stewart Bullock Chapter of the DAR to record oral histories that families wished to share with us. This information will be scanned into our database by DDC (see Moore on Oakland). When renewing your membership, please let us know if you have ancestors at Oakland. Next Descendants' Day is Sunday, November 7 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

❧ 2010 DONOR LIST ❧

THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND JUNE 30, 2010.

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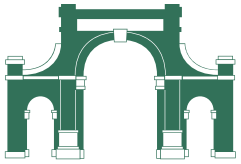
We are appreciative of each and every
donation and regret that we are only
able to list those over \$250.

We sincerely apologize for any errors
or omissions in this list.

PLEASE CONSIDER LEAVING
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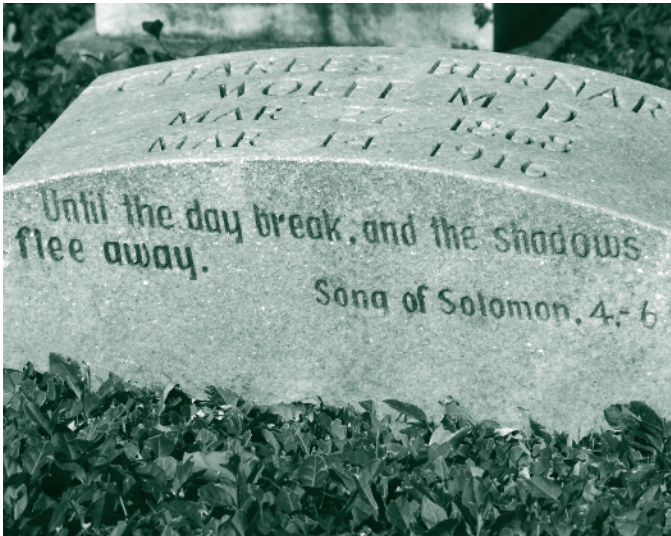
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DON'T MISS OUR FALL EVENTS! SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS.

NOVICE AND EXPERIENCED GARDENERS WELCOMED
FOR 2ND SATURDAYS! FIND OUT MORE UNDER
"VOLUNTEER" AT WWW.OAKLANDCEMETERY.COM.

OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEER—BIG BLUE

Oakland Trustee Rebecca Crumrine answered the call in the last newsletter for the need of a truck and has donated "Big Blue" to Oakland! Big Blue will have many duties on our grounds between the restoration and 2nd Saturday teams, and will undoubtedly make many trips to the Tool Bank. Thanks, Becca!

➤ SET IN STONE AT OAKLAND

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