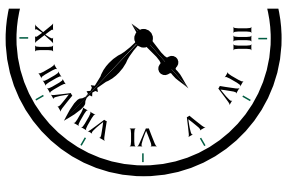


DECATUR PRESERVATION ALLIANCE



December 2008

News & Notes

Grow a Patch of Greenspace, Preserve a Bit of History —

Support DPA

As this year draws to a close, you are asked by many deserving organizations to contribute. In this time of economic crisis, nonprofits are having a difficult time gathering funds to continue their work. Your contribution to Decatur Preservation Alliance (DPA) supports our mission of preserving Decatur's historic structures and greenspaces.

What exactly does this mean, and how did we get here?

Preservation of historic structures . . .

DPA's first project was saving Decatur's historic depot, built in 1891 and designed by noted architect E.G. Lind. In 2003, with the help of funds raised by DPA, the depot was moved and stabilized and a new roof was installed. DPA also raised the funds to replace the original roof brackets.

In 2000, an 1870s structure was discovered behind demolished houses on Clairemont Avenue (the property was being developed as condominiums). DPA rescued the Fraser Building, and it was relocated to Decatur Cemetery, its permanent home. The exterior renovation was completed in 2003, and DPA retains ownership.

Decatur's senior citizens are served annually through the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project. The project was started by the DPA Board in 2003 to provide house maintenance and repair, free of charge, to low-income Decatur senior citizen homeowners during the MLK Jr. holiday weekend. The project has grown from 100 volunteers and eight homes in 2003 to approximately 800 volunteers and 27 homes in 2008.

The 2009 project will take place on Jan. 17, 18 and 19. DPA and the City of Decatur are partners in this project that enables Decatur's at-risk seniors to remain in their homes safely and comfortably, improving their quality of life.

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Out of respect for the environment, the print edition of News & Notes will be produced only on an occasional basis after Jan. 1, 2009. To receive information electronically, please send your email address to Susan Cobleigh, executive director, Decatur Preservation Alliance, susan@decaturpreservationalliance.org. Please recycle this newsletter!



Decatur Preservation Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our office is located in Woodlands Garden, 920 Scott Blvd., Decatur, GA 30030.

... and greenspaces

Decatur Cemetery is the city's largest greenspace, with 58 acres. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1997, the cemetery is the oldest public burial ground in the Atlanta area, dating back to 1823.

Friends of Decatur Cemetery, a project of DPA, preserves the history, landscaping, and gravesites of the 7.5-acre historic section. This fall, nationally renowned gravestone conservator Jonathan Appell, W. Hartford, Connecticut, conducted a one-day workshop co-hosted by DPA and the City of Decatur, titled "What do you do with a broken gravestone?" Representatives from the Historic Oakland Foundation and five metro counties participated in the sold-out, hands-on event.

Woodlands Garden, Decatur's seven-acre urban sanctuary and native plant habitat, was donated to the community in 2002 by the Morse family. It provides two types of nature experience – active hands-on involvement and passive appreciation. The Piedmont Native Garden features plants indigenous to the upper Georgia Piedmont and three types of topography – the bluff, slope and ravine forests, the oak/hickory climax forests and the bottomland forests. The Historic Family Garden features more than 50 varieties of camellias in addition to mature shrubs and ornamental trees.

DPA is also involved with Decatur's Greenspace Corridor Project and partners with the city to host the Old House Fair in October, the Storytelling Festival in the spring, and Decatur's Holiday Candlelight Tour of Homes in December.

Along with the Oakhurst Community Garden Project, we sponsor Decatur's Annual Garden Tour, held the last weekend in September, and we are honored to be a part of an ongoing relationship with Trees Atlanta, which has sponsored tree plantings at Woodlands Garden and Decatur Cemetery.

If you believe in DPA's mission, projects and programs and would like to see our work in the community continue, please support DPA through a donation or membership. You may designate your gift to a specific DPA project, if you so choose, and your membership or donation is tax-deductible. We would be most grateful!



Join! DPA Needs You

Levels of membership:

- Individual \$35
- Family \$50
- Founder \$100
- Partner \$500
- Patron \$1,000
- other \$_____

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Your donation is tax-deductible. To make a contribution, please make your check payable to the Decatur Preservation Alliance and mail to P. O. Box 1764, Decatur, GA 30031. Or visit www.decaturpreservationalliance.org, and click on "Join or Donate."