

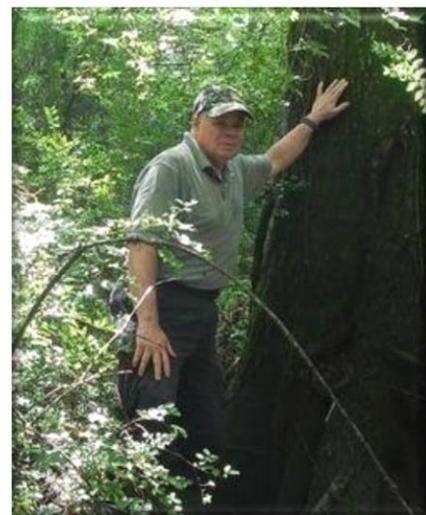


February 10, 2016

Berkeley Lake has been named a 2015 Tree City USA city by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. This is the **17th year** we have achieved this honor and we're all grateful for those in our community who have worked throughout these years to protect our tree canopy. Trees not only make our neighborhoods more beautiful; they also increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the United States Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Special thanks to our Berkeley Lake Conservancy, and its leader, Susan Hanson. They spearhead our city's efforts in support of trees and other landscape features that we all enjoy.

Speaking of our Conservancy, you are cordially invited to another of their very interesting programs. **Have you ever wondered what the various types of trees were in your yard or around town?** Berkeley Lake is blessed with many varieties. The Berkeley Lake Conservancy as part of the city's 2016 Arbor Day celebration activities will host a talk at City Hall on **Saturday, March 5 at 1:00 PM** that will help us all with this.

The presentation will be given by Dale Higdon (pictured here), a Georgia Registered Forester and ISA Certified Arborist. He retired from the Georgia Forestry Commission in 2008 after 32 years of service in urban and community forestry in the Atlanta area. He has been a member of the Georgia Urban Forest Council since its founding in 1988 and has served on the board. He currently works part time with Barneycastle Forestry Services as a consulting arborist and with the Georgia Wildlife Federation as a volunteer at the Mill Creek Nature Center in Buford. He is a board member of the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust and assists with monitoring of the land trust properties, including our Greenspace. He is on the board of the Georgia chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation and supervises an experimental chestnut planting on one of the GPLT tracts. Dale is a real friend to our city and is very knowledgeable of our history as well as that of the surrounding area. He has advised us for years on issues related to our Greenspace and we have been very fortunate to have his support.



Come meet him and ask questions. After the talk, the conservancy will offer a choice between two optional guided walks and you can make your choice at the meeting. To reserve a seat, e-mail Roxanne Egan at City Hall, deputy.clerk@berkeley-lake.com. If you have any questions about the program, please contact ed_zawacki@yahoo.com.

I have written before about those who break our city, county, and state laws to kill deer within our city. I regret that recent events compel me to again. I have on several occasions been approached by some who support bow hunting, whether because they want to get rid of deer or because they want to enjoy hunting here. I have repeatedly explained that this is against not only our city ordinances but the laws of other jurisdictions as well. I have also expressed the concern that a deer wounded by an arrow might stagger into someone’s yard and die a gruesome death in view of children or others who would find this very distressing. I have been assured that hunters could prevent this, but that is exactly what happened recently. A deer pierced by an arrow suffered as it struggled for days around our homes until it finally died. **There are plenty of places to hunt, but our city is not one of them.**

I have also been contacted by a neighbor who came home to find an arrow protruding from her chimney. According to police officers the arrow was from a crossbow most likely shot from the opposite side of the lake and, from the debris on it, was apparently a ricochet. To quote our neighbor: *“This is extremely disturbing in that on both sides of the chimney on my home are full length windows – the arrow could have easily hurt someone in the yard or inside the home. The arrow is still lodged in the fireplace (will have it removed) but I find it amazing someone could be so very foolish, whether it be an adult or youth.”* I find it amazing as well, and very distressing. Our police as well as the Department of Natural Resources have both been asked to make extra efforts to find and arrest anyone doing this. I would hope that no one in our city would put their neighbors at such risk and that these people are from elsewhere, but wherever they’re from, they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The fine from our city is \$1000 and that’s before the county and state have their shot at the violators. Officers will be patrolling, but citizens should be watchful as well. If you see anyone who might be hunting, call 911 immediately.

One of our police contacts sent [this flyer](#) as helpful advice to **protect yourself from crime** so I’m passing it on. I’ve written before urging you to avoid being a “volunteer victim” because even in such a low crime area, we need to take basic precautions. The only thing I would add is that dogs help, even little yappy ones. Some of you may remember that last time the police made a burglary presentation for us they said that dogs discourage the vast majority of people casing your house



and are really more effective in some ways than security systems. The police report regularly to me and Tom Rozier on crime in the area and the last report was “None.” Good to hear that, but please stay vigilant.

Also regarding police: while Tom Rozier and I work closely with them, I think it’s important for our individual citizens to maintain direct contact with police as well. To that end, you are invited to have **“Coffee with a Cop” on Wednesday, March 2 at Magnolia Bakery**

between 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM. The bakery is at 5175 South Old Peachtree Road. I hope you can go and ask questions, or tell them what you think, or just thank them for their service to us. We don’t do that enough.

Our city supports Partnership Gwinnett for **economic development** and I work closely with its leader Nick Masino. He sent me this copy of a recent page from the Atlanta Business Chronicle which lists Berkeley Lake again as the most affluent city in the state. We have been that for some years now, but I did not know we were ranked at 396th in the country. This map may be interesting to some of you.



The **Chairperson of our Gwinnett County Commission is Charlotte Nash**, whom I believe to be a very sincere and effective



public servant. She is meeting **for dinner** with 10 people for informal conversation in Duluth on Monday, July 11, from 6:00-8:00 PM and invited me. I see Charlotte often and she knows what I think, so I asked her if I could send another of our citizens. If you would like to go, please sign up [here](#). You will enjoy your time with Charlotte and I will be glad for her to hear from one or more of you. Act fast. She’s doing this at other places around the county and the spots fill up quickly. You could also dine with her in Grayson/Loganville on Monday, April 11, or in Dacula on Monday, May 9 but Duluth is the closest. If you need to sign up for one of these two, let me know and I’ll send you that info.

Our BLOSOMS group recently had a guest speaker with information that I want to pass on to the rest of you. Katy Roberts is a freelance journalist and environmental educator who shared ideas about **recycling, reusing**, etc. Her handouts can be viewed on the city website using these links: [recycling guide](#) and [creative reuse](#). After graduating from the University of Georgia in May 2015, she worked as a reporter in Phoenix where she developed a passion for the outdoors and conservation. She now works to inform the public about environmental issues through her YouTube channel, Kant Stop Katy, and other environmental publications. Katy would be proud of our twice yearly Earth Day events, one of which is coming up soon. **Save the date: Our Spring Earth Day is Saturday, April 16, 2016.**

As always, **please support our Berkeley Lake businesses:**



Our **Fidelity Bank** is celebrating their grand opening on Thursday, February 25, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. I will be cutting the ribbon, and have invited our city council members to join me. Since their branch manager has been so genuinely interested in our city, I was emboldened to ask if I could also invite all of you. She has kindly welcomed any BL citizen to join us for low country barbecue dinner and drinks. However, since they will be feeding us, you **MUST** let them know you’re coming. Please RSVP by Monday,

February 22 to Christy.Bell@lionbank.com. I hope to see you there to celebrate this new Berkeley Lake bank.



Christophe's To Go - Gourmet Meal Delivery Service - Meals are prepared fresh right here in Berkeley Lake by Christophe Le Metayer, a classically trained French chef, and delivered to your door. A weekly changing menu offers paleo, gluten free, vegetarian, and vegan options. The meals are composed of quality, all natural ingredients. I've tried the food and really enjoyed it. Nice not to have to cook. Check it out! www.christophestogo.com (678) 485-7653.



Lisa D. Salter