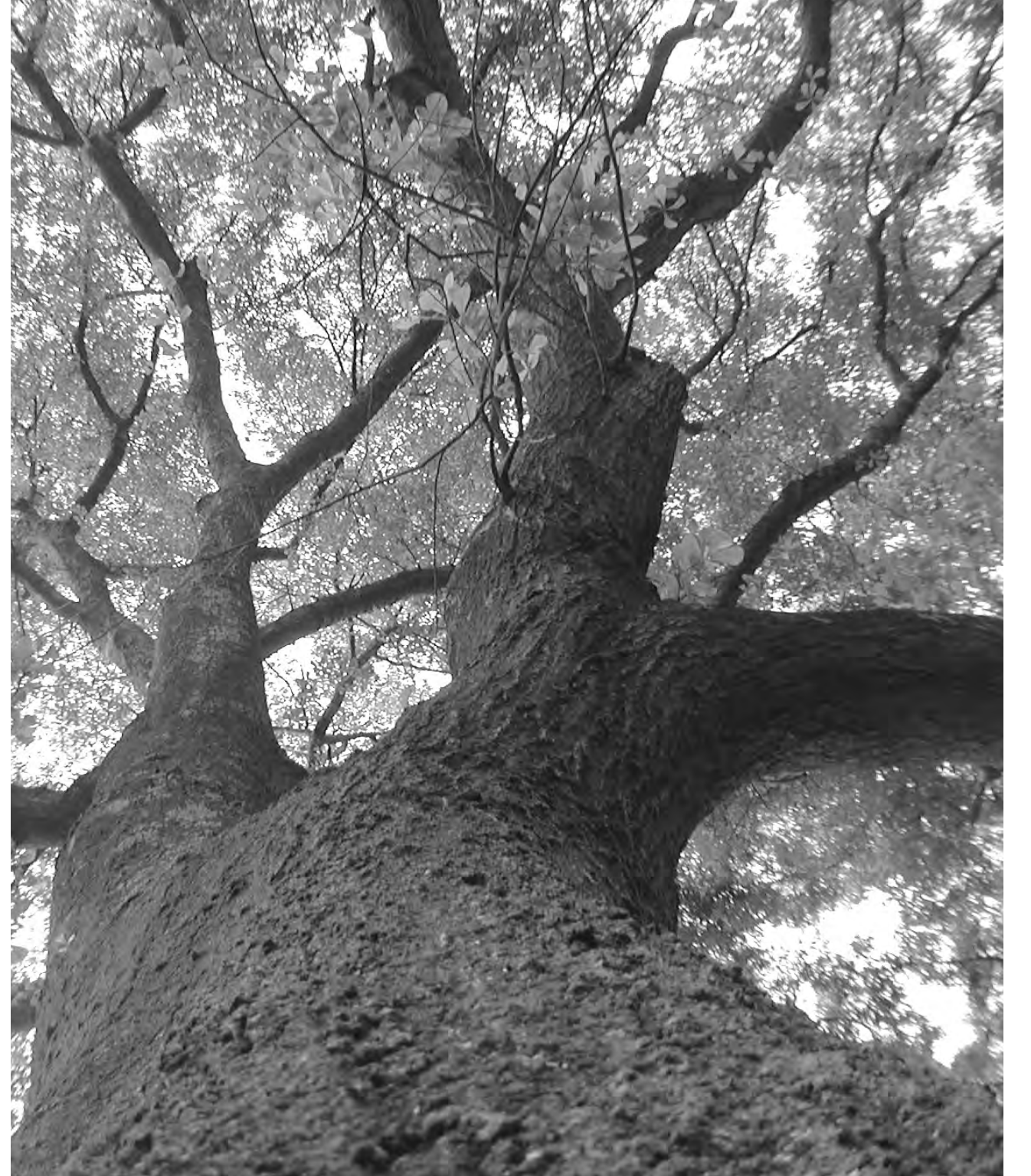


The Community Foundation
of Greater Decatur
Friends of Delano Park
P.O. Box 742
Decatur, Alabama 35602

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Conservator

• restoring the vision • preserving the legacy •



• the friends of delano park newsletter • volume 10 •

(left to right) Claudia Wright and Shirley Blankenship at the original WPA wading pool in the park - circa 1956



...So your children can tell their children

Restoring the Vision - Preserving the Legacy

"If I have seen further, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants."
- Sir Isaac Newton

On January 21, 2001, a small group of people who love Delano Park and want to bring it back to the vibrant place we all remember from our childhoods, met as Friends of Delano Park to begin the odyssey of the park's renewal. It was obvious to everyone that we needed a spiritual and intellectual leader, an Honorary Chairman, who could direct us, encourage us, and advise us. John Caddell was the perfect person. As he recounted stories about the park from his childhood and young adulthood, his positive outlook and genuine love for Decatur provided the encouragement needed to begin the journey.



*John Andrew Caddell
April 23, 1910 – February 7, 2006
January 21, 2001 First organizational meeting of Friends of Delano Park*

John Caddell was dedicated to keeping Decatur strong and keeping its history vividly alive. For five years as Honorary Chairman of Friends of Delano Park, he advised us not to dwell on the negative but to direct our energies toward what was good and beautiful and full of

integrity. Johnny never said "no" when asked to serve and he was always there to give us courage to follow the vision.

In recounting the past 186 years of our city's history, John Caddell always listed three men – Jessie Winston Garth, Col. Christopher Columbus Harris, and Barrett Shelton, Sr. – as the most important men in the history of Decatur, Alabama. However, the citizens of this town know that John Caddell, himself, was pivotal in almost every good and promising event that Decatur has enjoyed in the past 75 years. As Delano Park gradually takes on new life and as more and more people from every part of our great city enjoy its beauty and recreational

opportunities, we will always remember John Caddell, a true giant among men who was instrumental in renewing and maintaining a treasure for his beloved Decatur, Alabama.

"Leadership is the special quality which enables people to stand up and pull the rest of us over the horizon."
-James L. Fisher

Honor your mother or her memory with a gift of roses for this garden where the entire community can enjoy their beauty.

How Do I Make a Contribution?

Memorial gifts and honorariums are wonderful ways to remember and honor loved ones and friends. Donations will be used toward the rehabilitation and improvement of Delano Park. Your gift is fully tax-deductible and will be listed in the next issue of *Conservator*. If you wish to send a gift in memory or honor of a special person, please fill out the form below and mail it to: The Community Foundation of Greater Decatur/Friends of Delano Park, P.O. Box 742, Decatur, AL 35602. For more information about the many ways of giving, please call Nell Standridge at 256/350-6836. Named gift opportunities are available.

Honorarium

Memorial

This gift is a tribute to: _____
The above person is: (*please circle*) mother, father, brother, sister, cousin, aunt, uncle, friend, other _____ to the following person(s) listed, who will be notified of the gift.

Please notify the following persons of my gift:

Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Donor Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Form of Payment:

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Check Visa MasterCard
Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

A fund to benefit Friends of Delano Park has been established within The Community Foundation of Greater Decatur. The Community Foundation of Greater Decatur is a community foundation qualified under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations should be made to The Community Foundation of Greater Decatur/Friends of Delano Park. Donations are deductible as charitable contributions to the extent provided by law.

"Where, you tend a rose, my lad, a thistle cannot grow."
-Frances Hodgeson Burnett
A Secret Garden

LEVELS OF GIVING

Conservator's Circle (\$25,000+) Hank & Beth Pearce

Wal-Mart Foundation
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Joe & Katie Worthey

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Bill & Betty Sims
Bill & Suzanne Stone
Sammy Stone
Glynn & Cathy Tubb
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Fred & Lou Underwood

Delano Park Guardian (\$10,000+) Baker Foundation
The Decatur Daily
*MindVolt
3M-DECATUR
Sexton Foundation
Pat & Sally Smartt

Rose Society (\$1,500+) Em & Jill Barran
Sonny & Melissa Craig
Bob & Carolyn Sparks
Kerry & Nell Standridge

Garden Benefactor (\$250+) Jimmy & Milly Adams
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Ben Davis Elementary School
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Tom & Mary Bingham
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Jackie Goode
Green Thumb Garden Club
Trudy McKnight Grisham
Allen & Battle Hamilton
Art & Lil Jordan
Dot Montgomery
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Joe & Glee Sides
Janet Woller South
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Clint & Nicole Shelton
Anne Sidwell
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George & Judi Vinson

Delano Park Preservationist (\$5,000+) The Boeing Company
City of Decatur Beautification Bd.
The Melvin & Virginia Hutson Foundation
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Kiwanis Club of Decatur
Henry & Melanie McCrary
New Decatur/Albany Residential Historic District
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*Simco Construction, Inc.
Wally & Glenn Terry
Trowelers Garden Club
John & Joyce Veitch

Boxwood Society (\$1,000+) Jimmy & Marella Adams
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J. Gilmer Blackburn
Wiley & Dayna Blankenship
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Bingham & Bunny Edwards
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Wally & Barbara Inscho
Harris & Nixon Lowe
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Jamey & Pressley Peters
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Toni Roberts
*Schoel Design Group
*Solley Crane Service
Randall & Judith Tardy
*Toray Carbon Fibers America, Inc.
Randy & Loretta Troup
Rick & Linda Walter

** In order to maintain listing in remaining levels, a minimum annual donation of \$25 required.*

Garden Friend (\$25+) *Biles Rental World
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Jeannine Hill
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Sage & Emogene Copeland
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Richard, Cynthia & Rory Grugel
Kim Hallmark
Steve & Shirley Hammond
Mrs. Julian Harris
Ann Sample Hensley
Ralph & Glenna Dee Jones
Chip & Betty Ann Langley
Jeanne W. Leaverton
*Littrell Lumber Mill
Tom & Dicky Maynor

*"Don't forget.
A flower is God's
silent messenger."
-George Washington Carver*

*In kind

A Vision For All Children

*“There is a garden in every childhood,
an enchanted place where colors are brighter,
the air softer, and the morning more fragrant than ever again.”
-Elizabeth Lawrence*



If play is the work of the child, one acre on the eastern end of Delano Park will soon become one of the most productive places in Decatur. Replete with natural objects and original art depicting the cultural and natural history of our Valley home, the Playground for All Children in Delano Park will provide an inclusive public play area where all children of all abilities in the Greater Decatur area can play together. Children will naturally learn about various forms of diversity, disability, and acceptance while developing increased strength, coordination, confidence, and social skills as they play in this educational wonderland.

A century ago, most children navigated the land freely. They climbed trees, swam in creeks, and built ramshackle huts in the woods. Children had to call upon their own ingenuity and the playthings nature provided to amuse themselves. Today a myriad of inventions and lifestyle changes is creating a younger generation with a far less intimate knowledge of the physical world. Television, video games, the internet, mountains of homework, and a

variety of extracurricular activities all conspire to prevent unsupervised outdoor play. Children need to learn about nature from nature itself. Who will pass on the knowledge of our natural world to the next generation of children? Who will the next generation of outdoor stewards be if we raise children unfamiliar with the joy of nature's everyday pleasures?

From BuzzBee's Flower Garden to Mr. Turtle and the Great Tree to Owl and the Story Circle, the Playground for All Children in Delano Park will be devoted to entertaining and educating **all children** in a natural environment about the treasures of Alabama's incredible biodiversity. Research shows that having positive early experiences about nature – particularly guided by a knowledgeable, enthusiastic adult – fosters a lifelong appreciation and respect for living things. Join us in our mission of introducing area children to the wonders of nature and developing future generations of good stewards.

Mother's Day Celebration at the Rose Garden

Music, Roses, and the Historic Garden Tour

Sunday, May 14, 2006

Bring your mother to see the beautiful roses in bloom at this lovely site!

Decatur Youth Symphony will perform at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Reginald Jackson will perform at 3:00 p.m.

Friends of Delano Park members will be available to discuss and answer questions on current and future projects in the park.



Project Updates and Events

1. Rose Garden

Parks and Recreation Board has approved a set of guidelines to ensure that we are good stewards of this gift made possible by the many generous donors throughout our community. All fixtures and hardscape are in place. The boxwoods, hydrangeas, and trees have been installed. The first shipment of roses was planted. We hope to receive and plant the final shipment of roses before the Historic Decatur Garden Tour.

2. Reintroduction of Water Element

(Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant)

The SplashPad is completed and promises to be a cool respite on those hot summer days. Parks and Recreation will open the SplashPad Sunday, May 14 for the Historic Decatur Garden Tour. The official opening will take place at a later date to be announced.

3. Interpretive Signage

(Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel Grant)

The stone entry wall is completed. We are awaiting installation of the bronze leaf logos and bronze diagram of the 1887 plan of New Decatur.

4. Delano Park's Playground for All Children

The master plan for the playground has been completed and construction drawings are being developed. Many opportunities for giving will be available from donor bricks to the purchase of actual equipment.

5. Trees

Twenty-nine beautiful hardwoods have been planted throughout the park. Sixteen smaller ornamental trees have been planted in the Rose Garden.

Friends of Delano Park appreciates the many thoughtful gifts from its patrons.

The following contributions were made between December 2005 and April 2006.

HONORARIUMS

Avery Bowman
Henry & Blythe Bowman
Blythe Bowman
Ran & Betty Pickell
Florence Bowman
Toni Roberts
Merrell Bowman
Dale & Penny Trammell
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Kaleigh Dodd & family
Davis Dodd
Kaleigh "KK" Dodd
Tucker Dodd
Kaleigh "KK" Dodd
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Toni Roberts
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Steve & Penny Haddock
Patrick Charles Haley
Wally & Glenn Terry
Walter Hall
Jim & Margret Ann Templeton
Wally & Glenn Terry
H. E. "Buddy" Hallmark
Ila Hallmark
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Arlice Hammond
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Andy & Barbara Kelly
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Wiley & Dayna Blankenship
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Donna Castellano
Sage & Emogene Copeland
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Evans & Kappie Dunn
John & Lisa Eyster
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Bobby & Lou Greene
Debbie Griffin
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Phil & Marie Thomas
Trowellers Garden Club
Paula L. VanNatta
Rick & Linda Walter
John & Jan Wicks
Chuck Woodbury
Jim & Jan Worthey
Joe & Katie Worthey

*In kind