

FRIENDS OF FIVE POINTS

Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 5423, Athens, GA 30604

GREEN TIP FOR THE SUMMER: MOSQUITO CONTROL

The rather wet spring we've had in Athens has been wonderful for our gardens and lake levels, but has potentially produced conditions for a real nuisance this summer – mosquitoes. All of the rains have left many areas of hidden standing water around our yards, which are the breeding grounds for the blood-thirsty pests. To avoid getting bitten most people are resorting to using toxic repellents containing DEET and the organophosphate pesticide malathion, both suspected neurotoxins. These chemicals work well in keeping mosquitoes away, but there are safer and more ecologically sound alternatives. Here are some effective and safer alternatives for both your body and the outside environment:

Mosquito Repellents: Many natural food stores now carry a wide variety of herbal bug repellents. Most of these products include one of the following herbs: basil, eucalyptus, cloves, geranium, peppermint, rosemary, lemon balm, citronella, onions, garlic, and feverfew. You can make your own repellent by mixing 10 drops of essential oil of one of these herbs with two tablespoons of vegetable oil. Citronella or eucalyptus oil often work well. Combine the ingredients in a glass jar; stir to blend. Dab a few drops on your skin or clothing.

The Outdoor Environment: In your yard, the chances are very good that the mosquitoes are being produced within a few yards of where you are bitten. Flower pots, old tires, roof gutters, yard toys, pet dishes, bird houses, plastic weed coverings in gardens — any place with still, standing water is conducive to mosquito hatchings, and the water should be removed from all of these places often.

If you have areas with standing water that cannot be emptied such as birdbaths, rain barrels, garden ponds, tree holes, and gutters, for example, you can use the over-the-counter product called "Mosquito Dunks". They are recommended as a least-toxic material for outdoor mosquito control and are available in hardware stores. The dunks contain *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), a bacterial mosquito larvicide. This bacterium is effective on mosquitoes but is not hazardous to non-target organisms. Make sure to follow the manufacturers' recommendations.

One last tip for when you are out in your yard this summer and want to minimize bites: watch what you wear. Mosquitoes are often attracted to dark-colored clothing. So, choose clothes that are light-colored and you will be cooler in the sun and have fewer mosquitoes after you. You can also try using an outdoor-rated fan in seating areas.

Have a safe summer and hopefully fewer bites.

Kevin Barnes



FRIENDS OF FIVE POINTS
WWW.FRIENDSOFFIVEPOINTS.ORG

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NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 Issue 4 June 2009

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

One of the main challenges for FOFP is that our neighborhood is relatively large. Five Points defined its boundaries in 2005-2006 when it became an official neighborhood for the Athens-Clarke County Neighborhood Notification Initiative program. The boundaries are (generally) Baxter Street, Old Macon Highway, the University (Agriculture Drive), the Oconee River, and Fortson Drive. Our neighborhood includes renters, owner-occupied households, families with young children, students, singles, retirees, and everyone in between. The lot sizes are highly variable – lots tend to be smaller in the central Five Points area, for example, than the lots in Glenwood. Our neighborhood includes three historic districts and the Milledge Avenue corridor. The concerns among residents of one area are vastly different from those of another area. For example, street parking is an issue in the parts of the neighborhood closest to the university, whereas other residents are more concerned about issues like infill construction, noise complaints, or sidewalks.

A couple of issues that seem to be of interest to everyone these days are crime (particularly house and car

(continued inside)

CONTINUING A TRADITION: FOURTH ANNUAL FOFP EGG HUNT

We had another great showing for the Fourth Annual Friends of Five Points Easter Egg Hunt! On Saturday, April 11, nearly 400 people showed up at Memorial Park for a wonderful morning of Easter Egg hunting and enjoyed the onset of spring. We had great weather and a horde of excited hunters. Thank you to all volunteers and the Five Points Smoothie King for your generosity and support. See you next year!



THE PLANT THAT ATE ATHENS

Taken a walk along the Birchmore Trail lately? Makes you happy to get off the pavement and into the woods, doesn't it? To admire the flowering shrubs and the wildflowers....hey, wait a minute, where did those wildflowers go? Don't I remember wild geranium and trillium filling these woods in the springtime not long ago? What happened to the native plants?

The answer is: they were eaten by a monster lurking in the Memorial Park woods, creeping slowly and steadily over the ground, up the tree trunks. This monster is English Ivy, the plant threatens to eat Athens!

(continued inside)

(from the front)
 break-ins) and traffic calming. In particular, house robberies have dramatically increased in recent months. Please notify your neighbors and ACC police if you're planning to leave town, and take measures to make your house look occupied. Lock your house and car doors, and don't leave anything valuable and potentially tempting visible through the windows.

This organization is as strong and useful as the people who become involved. We always need people who are interested in taking on an issue of concern to them and their neighbors. Please feel free to utilize the FOFP listserve and/or be in touch with us to get a discussion going that could improve our neighborhood. You don't need to become a board member or part of the leadership. You just need to be willing to take on a project (or be really good at convincing one of your neighbors to take it on!). We look forward to hearing from you.

Sara Beresford and Carol Goerig
 FOFP Co-Presidents

Our Business Members

A Flair with Hair
 ADD Drug Store
 Animal Eye Care Clinic
 Barrett Properties
 Barry Simmons, DDS
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 Bobbie McKeller Real Estate
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 Milledge Avenue Baptist Church
 Plain Jane Designs
 Silver & Archibald
 Smoothie King
 Southern Comforts of Athens
 Two Story Coffeehouse
 Tyche's Games
 Urban Sanctuary Spa

(Plant, continued)

It turns out that English ivy is one of the most invasive, deadly exotic plants there is. When it escapes from its tidily edged front yard plots, it quickly engulfs neighboring yards, woodlands, and green spaces. It swarms over native shrubs and wildflowers, so that a nice hardwood forest is transformed into a featureless sea of evergreen ivy. Ivy spreads by aboveground stems, blanketing the ground and eventually enveloping and killing whole trees.

And it is murder to get rid of. Its glossy leaves repel herbicides. Its aerial rootlets grip tree bark. Nothing eats it, not even slugs. What seems to work? Good old elbow grease, as applied by ivy-killing volunteers.

If you've visited Memorial Park in the last decades, you've seen the steady encroachment of exotic pest plants – chief among them English Ivy, but also Chinese Privet, Kudzu, Bush Honey-suckle, and several others. In the spring, some of our sturdier wildflowers, such as wild geranium and toadshade, still poke their flowers up through the carpet of ivy and inspire us to return this forest to its former glory. We know this is not a lost cause. Here in Athens, we've seen the amazing results that followed Sue and Ed Wilde's efforts at ivy and privet eradication at the State Botanical Garden.

Friends of Five Points members are inspired to restore Memorial Park's woods and trails by eradicating English Ivy and other exotic pest plants and by planting native species. Beginning this fall, October 3, Ivy and Privet Pulls will be held every 1st and 3rd Saturday at the Park. We will meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of the administration building at Memorial Park. Please join us with your ivy-killing equipment, and if you don't have any, come anyway as we will provide you with what you need. Experienced ivy and privet pullers will be on hand to help you identify the "bad guys" and show you the most efficient ways to pull them up. To sign up as a volunteer, email: suewilde@hotmail.com or leslieboby@co.clarke.ga.us

Because our ultimate goal is to restore the undeveloped portions of Memorial Park to a close approximation of their original vegetation, we are focusing on removing exotics AND on planting native shrubs and wildflowers. We are looking for donations from nursery owners and native plant gardeners of plant species that are **native to the shady understory of Georgia's eastern Piedmont forests**. These include wildflowers such as wild geranium, bloodroot, and trillium; native shrubs include spicebush, sweet shrub, and painted buckeye. Native woodland grasses would be especially valuable – these include native cane, black needle grass, river oats, and woods oats. Planting will begin in the late fall and winter. For a complete plant wish list, or to donate plants, please email: doniell@bellsouth.net

Memorial Park is more than just picnic areas and jogging trails. It is Athens' only forested urban park. It is large enough to provide habitat for native birds and animals and for many years was a showcase for spring wildflowers. Join us to save the forest in Memorial Park. Let's stop English Ivy, the plant that threatens to eat Athens!

Linda Chafin
lchafin@uga.edu

INFILL SURVEY PROGRESS REPORT

Thanks to all of you who filled out and sent in your surveys. We have received 371 usable surveys from 83 of the 117 streets to which surveys were mailed. These numbers translate as 27% of the total number sent out (1,350), but 30% of possible replies (1,245) from the 83 streets represented. We have been told that this is a very respectable level of response to a survey such as ours, and that it indicates a strong level of residents' interest in the issue of infill construction.

Survey question number one required a "yes" or "no" answer to the question, "Do you feel that new home construction and extensive home remodeling projects that occur in your neighborhood should be in scale with and compatible with existing homes and the overall character of the neighborhood?" There were 346 "Yes" replies and 17 "No" replies here, indicating a more than 20-to-1 (or 93%) level of support of "compatible" construction among survey responders. When responses to question number three (the "essay question") were analyzed for content, there were more than 200 mentions of compatibility and compatibility-related issues such as "mass and scale", "height" and "setbacks".

It is our intention to make the final report available to our commissioners as evidence of our engagement with the issue of infill construction and our desire to work with them to develop a plan for Five Points's growth that will accommodate infill construction without endangering the appealing character of our neighborhoods (a sentiment expressed repeatedly in the returned survey forms).

We will have a final report some time this summer, and it will be posted as a link on our website, www.friendsoffivepoints.org.

Carol Goerig
 Infill Working Group and Preservation of Neighborhood Character Committee Chair

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WE  FIVE POINTS!

Membership Form

Complete this form and mail it with your check (made payable to Friends of Five Points) to the above address.

Name: _____
 Your Name or Business Name

Address: _____
 Street Address City State Zip

Are you a new member or renewing member? New Renewing
 Please indicate the type of membership:
 \$10 Household Membership
 \$25 Three Year Household Membership
 \$25 Business Membership

If you would like to join the listserve and receive occasional e-mails about events and issues affecting our neighborhood, please provide your e-mail address here (please note that FOFP will not share your name, address or e-mail address with third parties): _____

Is there a specific issue or interest that Friends of Five Points can help you with? _____

Our association is successful due to the generosity of our volunteers. We are always looking for others interested in becoming involved in our mission. Please check the below volunteer opportunities that interest you:

- Helping with the newsletter or website
- Occasionally volunteering for social events
- Joining a committee
- Serving on the board
- Helping with a specific task
- Serving as a street captain