



BCA's Spring Festival, Concord Park



Artist and Customers



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The Bannockburn Banner is published twice a year by the Bannockburn Citizens Association. For corrections, suggestions, and content submissions, please email the Editor,
johnnoble@mac.com

Lower Booze Creek Stream Restoration

by Edith Miles

During the last 3 years, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has restored the Lower Booze Creek Stream in our neighborhood (see map). This section of the creek extends between River Road and the Cabin John Parkway for 0.8 mile. The creek runs behind houses on one side of Helmsdale Road and Heatherhill Court before emptying into Cabin John Creek.

The work established a stable stream channel, improved the aquatic habitat, and restored native vegetation. DEP coordinated with Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to remove or repair aging sewer lines. A ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated completion of the project on Saturday May 18, 2013. Several BCA residents attended. Montgomery County representatives described the project and how the biological health of the stream was monitored. They then led a walk along one side of the stream.

I wrote a short article on the "Booze Creek Restoration Project in our Neighborhood" for the December 2009 Bannockburn Banner. I have observed and photographed the restoration work with interest. The banks of the creek and inlets into the creek have been stabilized by rocks and by heavy hemp cloth that is held in place by wooden stakes and planted with grass. The banks were planted with willow cuttings. Hundreds of native trees were planted and individually staked. The trees include Pawpaw, black gum, sycamore, winterberry, witch hazel, American hornbeam, and white oak. The area has become a preserve for deer, foxes, and birds.



BCA President's Letter

Ted Garrett

We have had a great spring and look forward to the summer season.

Spring Festival. Our Spring Festival at Concord Park on May 19, 2013 was a fine event, as you will see from the photos in this newsletter. We had fine weather and a happy group of neighbors gathered to enjoy the festivities and a chance to visit. Thanks to our Festival committee, we had abundant food for everyone. Children enjoyed the caricaturist, and we had another plant exchange. Neighbors displayed their creativity in decorating metal birds, and the seniors table was well attended. Special thanks to Bonnie Garrett, Rebecca Kahlenberg, Karen Lesser, John Marquardt, Sue Mason, Edith Miles, Jane Pettit, Stephanie Posner and Jo Roberts for making this event a success.



Meetings. Our regular BCA quarterly meeting on June 6, 2013 featured remarks by Mark Wilcox, Senior Engineer with the County's Department of Environmental Protection. He reviewed the restoration of Lower Booze Creek. As you probably know, before the restoration there was exposed piping and much erosion along the banks. As those of you who have seen the creek recently can attest, the creek is greatly improved with benefits to our community and the watershed. At the meeting, we elected Seth Goldstein and John Hannula to the BCA Board of Directors. As usual, thanks to Jo Roberts and Movita Hercules for their help in setting up for these meetings, and to St. Mark for its hospitality.

Environment Committee. As you know, our BCA environment committee spearheaded a BCA resolution on best practices for tree preservation and removal. The committee is also working to address the problem of english ivy on our trees, and is also a resource to our covenants committee. Contact committee Chair **Seth Goldstein** sethrgoldstein@verizon.net if you have suggestions or wish to volunteer.

Construction. Our covenants committee, headed by **Ben Schlesinger**, continues to monitor construction and permit applications in the neighborhood. If you have questions about a new construction, renovation or sale, contact Ben at bschles@bsaenergy.com. I must advise that Dwight Mason has stepped down as co-Chair of the Covenants committee, which he led with distinction, but we take comfort from the legacy he left and his willingness to be available as a resource.

Neighborhood Security. The committee acts works with the block captains and is considering other ways to improve neighborhood security. There is a new webpage with security information. We ask our block captains to get to know the neighbors on their block, to ask neighbors to keep an eye on each other's homes, and to register on the website. If you have suggestions or wish to volunteer to be a block captain, contact committee Chair **John Hannula** at john_hannula@yahoo.com.

Newsletter. **John Noble** continues to do a splendid job as Editor of the Banner. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or would like to volunteer, contact John at johnnoble@mac.com.

Seniors. **Edith Miles** is Chair of our very active Good Neighbors committee. The committee organizes various activities and works to help BCA seniors who want to continue to live in their homes in their senior years. You can contact Edith for information or suggestions at ewmiles@comcast.net.

New Neighbors. Jane Pettit and Cecily Abrams continue to welcome new BCA neighbors. If you would like to help on this committee or know of new arrivals to the neighborhood, please email janepettit1@verizon.net or call: 301-229-5932.

Dues. BCA dues for 2013 are due on January 1. You can mail a check to Bonnie Garrett, BCA Treasurer, 6604 Broxburn Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817 or pay your dues online via our website: <http://bannockburncitizens.org/dues/index.php>

Website. You can find our new and improved website: <http://bannockburncitizens.org/> Please register on the BCA website, by clicking on the "register" tab, and/or update any change in e-mail address so that you will receive periodic e-mails concerning BCA activities, incidents, and other significant news. Your e-mail address is confidential and cannot be accessed by others.

Next meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 5**, at 7:30 p.m. I hope to see you then. We also look forward to another great Fall Festival. In the meantime, have a great summer.

For Sale With Covenants by Dwight Mason



Most properties in our neighborhood are subject to Covenants recorded with the deed. In summary, the Covenants (1) require the owner to notify prospective buyers and agents of the Covenants, (2) require the owner to provide plans for any construction to the Association for approval in advance of construction, independent of the separate requirement to obtain county building and related permits, (3) require a set back from the street of 60 feet and of 15 feet from the sides of the house to a property line, and (4) prohibit subdivision of lots without approval of the Association.

Failure to provide this information to prospective buyers in a timely manner might expose sellers to accusations that they had not disclosed important facts material to the sale. So we urge Bannockburn owners to be aware of the covenants and provide information about the Covenants early in the process of adding to or selling a property here. The text of the Covenants (and FAQs concerning them) may be found at <http://bannockburncitizens.org>.

Attention Bannockburn Property Owners

Many property owners do not realize that without a **proper permit**, it is against the law to **remove trees** that are near the street in front of your property. The **county** owns the first **20 feet** that extends from the edge of the street up to the border of your property. To find out how to obtain a permit and other details, see the BCA website: [links http://bannockburncitizens.org/links.php](http://bannockburncitizens.org/links.php).

Save Your Trees, Remove Ivy

by Seth Goldstein, Chair, Environmental Committee

The BCA Environment Committee wants to help save mature trees in our neighborhood. Trees not only are an important part of our environment but they contribute to the dollar value of our property and the entire neighborhood. Unfortunately, many of our trees are threatened by invasive vines that will eventually destroy them. We have determined, for instance, that approximately 1 in 3 properties in the BCA community have trees with English Ivy growing on them.

Most people do not realize it but common English Ivy eventually destroys trees. English Ivy grows up the tree trunk preventing light from reaching branches and eventually kills the tree. Additionally it overloads the tree so it is much more prone to falling down in a storm or during the winter. **If every homeowner were to remove the invasive vines growing on the trees in his/her lot, it would be a big contribution to the community at large. We have sent you this letter in the hope that you will inspect your property to see if you have English Ivy vines on your trees, and if you do, to try to remove them.**

The easiest way to control English Ivy is to simply cut all climbing stems about waist high with a saw or some type of garden shears. It is then a good idea to separate the lower part of the vine from the tree trunk either by pulling it off by hand or, if necessary, by wedging it off the bark with a screwdriver or other implement. (If you are ambitious make an additional cut several feet lower, and remove the isolated cut segment. A description of this and other ways to remove English Ivy is presented at the following website

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/hehe1.htm>

Before beginning, make sure there is no Poison Ivy mixed in with the English Ivy. Although Poison Ivy is easily identified by its cluster of 3 notched leaves and its "hairy" attachment of the vine to the tree bark, to be on the safe side, it is a good idea to go to Google Images and look up Poison Ivy. If Poison Ivy is present, then you might want to first kill the Poison Ivy with a spray (obtained at any hardware store) and then attacking the English Ivy a few weeks later.

Should you have any questions about this, or are concerned about a different type of vine please contact me by email at sethgoldstein@verizon.net . I have been volunteering for years.

Thanks for your attention.



Mark Wilcox, Speaker on Booze Creek

by Ted Garrett

Mark Wilcox spoke at the BCA June 6, Meeting about the restoration of Booze Creek and offered some comments about the access points to the Booze Creek area. He advises that the Booze Creek Stream Valley Park is located on MNCPPC-managed property. It does not have any established trails, such as the nearby Cabin John Trail (http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/cabin_john_svu.shtml). Recreational use of the stream is not one of the Department of Environmental Protection's goals in implementing the project. Wilcox said that he cannot comment on the realistic prospect that a recognized trail will ever be established, but his understanding is the absence of a safe crossing to the Cabin John Trail main unit under Cabin John Parkway presents a serious obstacle.

The land in the Booze Creek stream valley is public land and while access is not formally established, the public is not prohibited from walking there on public land. However, there is no liability assumed by the Parks for folks accessing this parkland. There are several access points from BCA boundaries to the Park via narrow corridors from the road right-of-way. (See map on address page.)

1. There is access from Helmsdale Road down a steep slope adjacent to the private land at 7420 Helmsdale Rd; please note that the property at 7420 extends approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the distance from the home to River Road so even if it is not developed, it is still private property and this property owner's rights need to be respected.

2. Helmsdale Road – between 7212 and 7208 – please be aware that this access takes you between private residences that may not fully appreciate the existence of this sliver of MNCPPC property between their properties; I always recommend to folks to knock on doors and ask permission in this kind of situation.

3. The end of Heatherhill Court – please refer to my comments above, please respect your neighbors and contact them before regularly using these access points. This is a particularly steep area and is not recommended for access.

Bannockburn Citizens Association

*****Please pay Calendar Year 2013 dues Now*****

Dues Payment Coupon

☐ Member \$30

☐ Supporting Member \$50

☐ Patron \$100

Enclosed is my check for \$_____, (Contributions above "Member" are used for miscellaneous BCA expenditures, such as refreshment for General Meetings and our semi-annual picnics.) Dues can be paid through the Website: Bannockburncitizens.org.

Name: _____

Email: _____

House Number and Street: _____

Send to: Bonnie Garrett, Treasurer, BCA; 6604 Broxburn Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817

Good Neighbor Committee Activities

by Edith Miles

Many of our BCA neighbors are now over 65 and plan to stay in their homes as they age (Age-in-Place). The BCA Good Neighbors Committee encourages BCA members to get to know their older neighbors and to help them when needed. We find that visits to seniors help to define their needs and to gather suggestions for BCA activities.

We use an e-mail list of about 80 names to send out information that is important to seniors. We encourage BCA members to participate in activities including a knitting group, a neighborhood walking group, BCA meetings at St. Mark Church, festivals at Concord Park, lunches and other meetings.



Lunches for Seniors. The BCA Good Neighbors committee has sponsored two lunches for BCA Seniors during the last year at the Hunters Inn in Potomac. We reserved a private room with 3 tables for 19 participants. We all enjoyed the food and company.

Table for Seniors at the BCA Spring Festival. We had a good turn out of seniors at the festival in Concord Park May 19. We enjoyed talking, eating, and participating in the plant exchange.



Other Neighborhood Programs for Seniors. Our committee is interested in learning about programs for seniors that have been developed by 2 nearby neighborhood associations, Burning Tree Village and the Bannockburn Civic Association. We invited Miriam Kelty, who helped to create the “Neighbors Assisting Neighbors” (NAN) program in the Bannockburn Civic Association, to speak to a meeting of 17 BCA Seniors on March 19, 2013. (Photo 4198). NAN is an intergenerational program that helps seniors Age-in-Place. NAN sponsors an activity (lecture or social) in the Bannockburn Community Clubhouse (6314 Bannockburn Drive) each month and welcomes participants from our Bannockburn Citizens Association. Edith Miles forwards announcements of these activities to her list of BCA seniors. For example, Ruth Marcus of the Washington Post spoke Sunday, April 14 from 2-4 pm. Several seniors from our group attended. NAN uses the Bannockburn community forum list serve to publicize its programs, seek volunteers, and distribute information.

Miriam described two types of “Villages” in the Washington area that help seniors Age-in-Place. The first type is informal, depends entirely on volunteers, and does not charge any fees. This type includes NAN, our BCA Good Neighbors Committee program, and the Burning Tree Village program. The second type charges annual dues and uses both volunteer and paid help. Capitol Hill Village is an example of the second type. You can learn more about NAN from the Bannockburncommunity.org web site.

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The Bannockburn Banner



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