

# INDIANHEAD LEHIGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2015  
*Fall Newsletter*

## *Halloween Party & Potluck* Sunday, October 25th 4:30 to 7:30 pm • Optimist Park

The traditional Halloween Party and potluck, sponsored by the Neighborhood Association, is scheduled for Sunday, October 25th at Optimist Park, from 4:30 pm to 7:30pm. This event is open to all residents of the neighborhood—it is not for kids only (but is for only those who are kids at heart). The party in the park will include live music provided by the ever-popular band Tao Jones and the Ontological Elephants. The costume parade, with musical accompaniment, is open to all ages and ogres.

This year, a team of HallowNeners are adding some new elements to the party: face painting for the kids, a haunted trail for the brave, and a “not too scary” kids walk for the little ones.

As always, you and your neighbors will bring the most scrumptious foods for the potluck dinner. The Neighborhood Association will provide plates, utensils, and drink; however, please consider bringing your own plates and utensils to save on waste. The party preparation and decoration of the clubhouse will be from 11 am to noon that day. Assembly and



decoration of the haunted trail and “not too scary” kids walk will begin at 10:00 am and go through mid-afternoon.

All decorating volunteers and decorations are welcome! For more information on how to help with the party and with decorating the clubhouse, contact Grant Gelhardt at [grant.gelhardt@gmail.com](mailto:grant.gelhardt@gmail.com)

### CALENDAR

#### **2nd Sunday of Each Month: Potluck in the Park**

**Optimist Park, 4:00 pm** In addition to the potluck dish to share, please bring your own utensils and perhaps a chair or blanket for sitting and visiting.

#### **Saturday, October 10: Coral Ardesia Removal Work Session**

**Optimist Park, 9 am - 11 am**

(group will meet the second Saturday of every month)

#### **Halloween Party, Sunday, October 25th**

**Optimist Park, 4:30-7:30 pm**

Fun for ALL AGES! Potluck dinner, costume parade, live music face painting, “not-too-scary” haunted trail & more

#### **Sunday, November 1: Turn your clocks back one hour**

(complete calendar on page 16)

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- Hartsfield Elementary Corner
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- Nene Teeny Library

## Traffic Calming Update

A few months ago, we began collecting signatures from residents on Chowkeebin Nene for the purpose of mobilizing the city to investigate the need for traffic-calming installations on this road. Chowkeebin has a very steep hill, tempting drivers to speed downhill. There are also no stop signs on this road (except at the beginning and end), a feature that encourages drivers to unconsciously "step on it." We received word in June that enough signatures had been collected and the city would begin an official study of traffic patterns on the road! Thank you to those neighbors who signed the petition and to those who supported our efforts.

The traffic study was completed in late August and revealed that north and south bound drivers on Chowkeebin average 40 mph! (The maximum speed limit in residential neighborhoods is 25 mph.) The City has now designed a traffic calming installation that will help reduce speeding on Chowkeebin. The

IHLNA Traffic Committee will meet with city planners to go over this design which will then be presented at a meeting of all Chowkeebin Nene residents. Those living on Chowkeebin will receive a post card in the mail notifying you of this meeting. After the meeting, you will receive a ballot card in the mail that you will need to return to the City indicating a 'yes' or 'no' vote. We must have 75% of Chowkeebin addresses answer 'yes' in order to proceed with the traffic-calming installation.

Thank you so much for your support in these efforts to make our neighborhood safer for drivers, walkers, bikers, pedestrians, pets, turtles, etc.

Please feel free to contact me via email with any questions: Ashley Arrington  
ashleyroberts10@hotmail.com



## The Nenehead Bike Train

by Shelly Hatton

I live on Chuli and frequently have the pleasure of watching the bicycle train pass by. This is a cadre of mostly children with a few adults pedaling their way to Hartsfield Elementary in the early morning hours. My



laptop is positioned such that I can look out the front window and watch the world navigate my street. Sometimes, before heading off to work, I check email and on rare occasions, I catch site of our neighborhood Bike Train as they push their way uphill. Heads down, focused, pedaling up the Chuli Nene hill, in straight lines, and often silent, they make their way with a hundred private thoughts. Tiny legs on a mission. What I see from my vantage point are little people strapped into stuffed backpacks, protected with hard helmets, tiny wheels spinning from the grinding of tiny muscles. These are children growing up into self-sufficient, environmentally astute, fit adults.

If I'm lucky, I am home to watch the train return. The picture changes. Whoosh. They fly downhill, packs lighter, faces brighter, one hand off the handlebars, swerves and swirls, a holler, spontaneous breaks in the line and there is chatter. Such a delight. Such a good idea!

The Hartsfield Bike Train travels every morning, along Wahalaw, Chinnipakin and Chuli, with between 2 and 7 student riders (plus some adults). We currently have 3 meeting points along the way and we arrive at Hartsfield by about 8:05. If you would like to hop on this train or would like some help setting up another route, please contact [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com).

One of the characteristics of a vital, engaged neighborhood is the communication that occurs among its residents. Often time, this communication occurs informally as people encounter one another on neighborhood walks or at one of the parks. But there are four major ways that people in this neighborhood get and keep in touch with each other: via this newsletter, the neighborhood Facebook page, the neighborhood webpage, and the neighborhood email list.

The newsletter is a wonderful tool for getting information out because, unlike the other avenues, it goes to every household in the neighborhood. The efforts of Shelly Hatton (editor), Charity Myers (layout and graphics) and Sandy Neidert and her volunteers (delivery) make this distribution possible. The major limitation of the newsletter is that it is published only twice a year and is thus not able to cover fast-breaking news.

The neighborhood Facebook page is the tool that is most nimble in getting the word out (to those who are signed up for it) about events and opinions in the neighborhood. Everything from soccer game schedule changes to whether cats should be allowed to roam free is fair game on this page. Lots of information about free household items, bugs, lost dogs and late night noise.... If you are on Facebook and you live in Indianhead or Lehigh, I can't imagine



why you wouldn't want to be on this page. To gain access, email our neighborhood association president Grant Gelhardt at [grant.gelhardt@gmail.com](mailto:grant.gelhardt@gmail.com) and request to be added.

The neighborhood webpage page is [ihlna.org](http://ihlna.org). Recently revised, this page has a calendar, information about the 'hood, and copies of previous newsletters. Check it out!

Finally, Grant Gelhardt, our president, maintains an email list and occasionally sends out emails of interest to the neighborhood. This method of communication is broader-reaching than the Facebook page. It allows people who are Facebook-averse to get important information about goings on. To be added to his email list, email Grant at [grant.gelhardt@gmail.com](mailto:grant.gelhardt@gmail.com).

Join us, sign in, know what's happening!



**Are you a GRAPHIC DESIGNER or possess design skills?**

**Are you a WRITER or do you have awesome EDITING skills and good COMMUNICATION skills?**

**Would you like to contribute to our neighborhood?**

**Contact Charity ([thecreativepool@gmail.com](mailto:thecreativepool@gmail.com))**

**or Shelly ([shellyhatton@gmail.com](mailto:shellyhatton@gmail.com)) if you are interested in working on the Nene Newsletter...WE NEED YOU!**

**WE WANT YOU!  
(IF YOU ARE AWESOME)**

# Caring for our Greenway

by Biologist Connie Bersok

Our Greenway is a wonderfully mixed blessing. On the one hand, it is a lush respite with large shade trees, a creek, and a trail for exploration. On the other hand, it is full of non-native invasive plants that have displaced the native plants and wildlife habitat. These invasive plants will continue to expand their cover and increase their impact on native plants, including trees, unless action is taken.

Luckily, the City of Tallahassee has obtained funds to address the problem of non-native invasive plants in eight city park properties, and the Indianhead greenway is one of those.

The dominant invasive plants in our greenway that are proposed to be treated are Air Potato, Coral Ardesia, Nandina, Japanese Climbing Fern, Chinese Tallow Tree, Privet, Skunk Vine, Asiatic Jasmine, and Kudzu. For more about any of these plants, the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council is a great resource: <http://www.fleppc.org>

Reducing invasive plant population involves a number of approaches: physical removal/hand pulling, the use of biological controls, and herbicide treatments. These activities usually have to be repeated before the plants are under control.

Did you know that we already have biological control underway here? A red leaf-feeding beetle (*Lilioceris cheni*) that has been shown to be successful in tests for air potato control was introduced to a large area of air potato vine this spring. It has already shown great progress in chewing up large areas of leaves in one growing season. The adult beetle will go into a resting phase in the ground or leaf litter over the winter and will re-emerge in the spring when the vines re-sprout.

The city's work is tentatively scheduled to begin in mid-to-late October and should last through 2016. Care will be taken to avoid native plants, especially threatened and endangered species. When work is underway, portions of the greenway and trail may be closed for brief periods of time. The city posts notices in the area and on the city's Park Notices webpage: [www.talgov.com/parks/parks-parknotices](http://www.talgov.com/parks/parks-parknotices).

For questions or comments about the city's invasive exotic plant control or if you would like to volunteer in this effort, please call Park Management Specialist Eric Mason at (850) 509-5746 or email him at [eric.mason@talgov.com](mailto:eric.mason@talgov.com).

Once the greenway invasive plants are under control, there needs to be a plan and an effort to keep them from establishing themselves again. Many of these plants were originally used in landscaping and they are found in many of our yards. The problem is that these plants can easily spread to the greenway by birds, animals and wind carrying their seeds, and through yard trimmings that include seeds, tubers, or roots. One way you can help is to remove invasive exotic plants from your own yard and dispose of them properly so that they do not continue to spread in the neighborhood. For more information on how to properly dispose of invasive plant yard waste, visit: [http://www.fleppc.org/Publications/Florida\\_InvasivePIDisposalGuidelines.pdf](http://www.fleppc.org/Publications/Florida_InvasivePIDisposalGuidelines.pdf).

Then, we can work on restoring our greenway to a forested haven that will be around for generations to come.





# What Keeps Indianhead/Lehigh Great

By Terry Anne Kant-Rauch

Most of us lucky enough to live in Indianhead/Lehigh can tick off many great things about our neighborhood. I see so many different neighborhoods as a realtor in Tallahassee, and I haven't yet found one I'd rather live in.

Some things that make Indianhead stand out include:

- Folks always out walking and biking. We have a large number of residents who relate to the outdoors. All year round. We have two parks, walking trails and our own creek.
- Lots of community leaders and creative people. These include environmentalists, spiritual people, business owners, authors, artists, musicians and teachers.
- Sharing of activities: monthly pot luck suppers, Final Fridays, Festivals, trail clean ups, community organic gardens, household projects, finding lost pets, organizing play groups, sports activities, biking options and much more. We have an unusually vibrant community of neighbors.

- LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. We're close to Downtown, universities, Cascades Park, Gaines Street, Railroad Square, Governor's Square, and our local restaurants (like Cabo's, Craig's, Sahara and Vertigo) and member-owned New Leaf Market, just to name a few.

- Infrastructure like our neighborhood association, Facebook page, and newsletter to keep us informed and involved.

But what I like the best about our neighborhood is that even with so many different kinds of families, ages, backgrounds and diversity of thoughts, there is a genuine caring that comes across as neighbors greet each other, share meals, carpool, bring in mail when someone's out of town, welcome new neighbors, and generally look out for each other. I often feel that we live in a small town with large extended family members all around. I hear this sentiment from so many others who live here as well. It's a rare thing to have in neighborhoods these days, and as my family celebrates 25 years in Indian Head this month, I am grateful for this truly unique and wonderful neighborhood community.





## Reusable Bags

By Peggy Sanford

Last Spring, the Sustainable Indianhead Lehigh Community (SILC) started a project to make reusable bags and give them out to shoppers at the Winn-Dixie grocery on Magnolia, near our neighborhood. With the help of neighborhood kids, we were able to make and give away 130 bags one Saturday morning in April.

Over the summer, the bag initiative evolved and grew. Now, the Community Thrift Market, a new thrift store at 1211 North Monroe, has joined the effort and is making kits that people can use to sew bags at home. The group making the kits meets from 1 pm - 3 pm on Wednesdays. These kits, which contain one cut-out bag body, two braided handles and a set of instructions, are available to anyone who wishes to make their own reusable grocery bag. They can be obtained at the Community Thrift Market, The Sharing Tree, or by contacting me, Peggy Sanford at [peggysanford1981@gmail.com](mailto:peggysanford1981@gmail.com).

The original bagmakers continue to meet at The Sharing Tree, 218 East Third Avenue, on the first and third Thursday of each month from 1 pm - 4 pm. We have also added Saturday sessions on September 26 and October 24 from 10 am - 2 pm. Anyone, no matter what their level of expertise, is welcome to come to these sessions and help make bags. Additionally, neighborhood kids continue to braid handles and local Girl Scouts are exploring using the kits.

As we continue to figure out ways to get more and more reusable bags made from donated fabric, we have obtained a new name: rags2bags. I have secured a website at [rags2bags.com](http://rags2bags.com), but it is in its infancy. Perhaps by the time this is published, the instructions for the kits will be available at the website.

SILC has been and continues to be a major partner in this home-grown effort to make people aware of the evils of single-use plastic shopping bags. You can continue to help by considering the following:

- Donating fabric, either heavier weight suitable for bag bodies or lighter weight cotton suitable for braiding into handles
- Getting a kit and sewing bags at home
- Coming to the Community Thrift Market or The Sharing Tree and working together with others to make bags and kits
- Encouraging neighbors to use reusable shopping bags and explaining why this is important.

For more information, contact me via email at [peggysanford1981@gmail.com](mailto:peggysanford1981@gmail.com) or by phone or text at 850-322-1027. I live at the corner of East Indianhead and Heechee Nene. I keep a container on my front porch. Please put any donated fabric in this container. I would love to hear from anyone who wants to work on this project or who has ideas about making it better.



Rags2Bags making session at  
The Sharing Tree  
**Oct. 24th, 10am-2pm**

New Leaf Farm Tour  
**Oct. 24th - 25th**

Tour of Gardens  
**Nov. 15th, 2pm-4pm**

Star Metro Field Trip to Gaines  
Street Pies and FSU women's  
basketball game against Temple  
**Sunday, Dec. 6th**

Neighborhood Bicycle Tour  
of Lights  
**Dec. 18th, depart 6:30pm**  
from Optimist Park

# Ready for Your Winter Veggie Garden?

by Geoff Brown



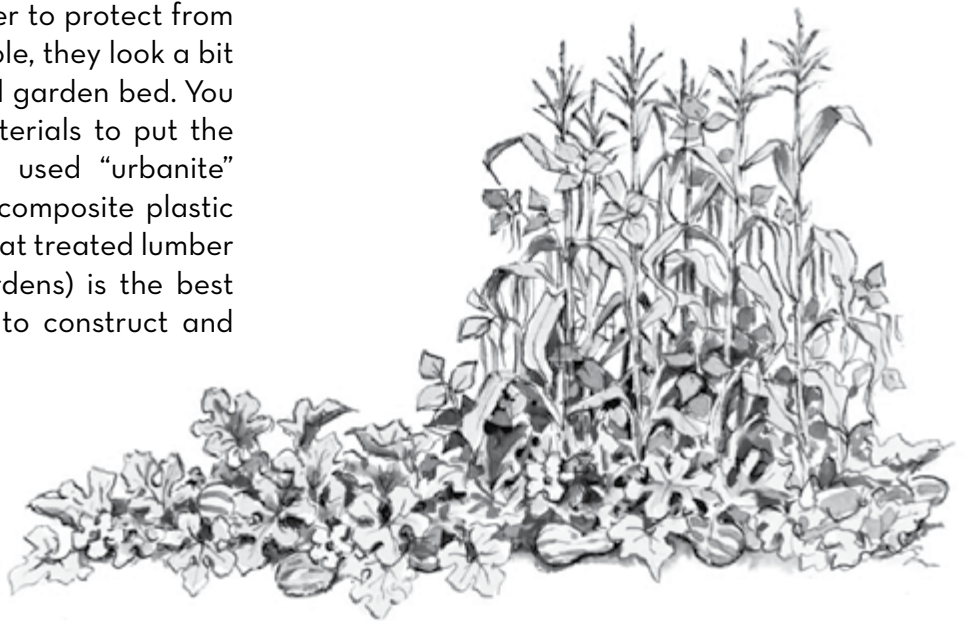
By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be high time to get your winter garden in. I love winter gardens here in North Florida because maintenance is lower in the winter, as are pests, and watering is at a minimum. Pick up a green alphabetized planting checklist from nearby Gramlings Garden Center to guide your choices. Winter veggies include beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, endive escarole, lettuce, mustard, onions, spinach and turnips. Of course I'll only plant about a third of veggies on that list, but I always compulse-buy at gardening centers—so you never know! (Plugs to Native Nurseries and Tallahassee Nurseries too.) Bok choy and garlic are not on the Gramlings' list, but they will be in my garden! Winter gardens look so great in our planting zone!

If you are considering putting in a vegetable garden for the first time, raised beds are a great option. Raised beds give you more control over the type of soil you wish to use, minimize soil compaction, minimize pests like nematodes, are easier to manage and weed, drain well, and are easier to protect from our North Florida frost. On the whole, they look a bit tidier than a regular on-the-ground garden bed. You can use a number of different materials to put the "raisin" in your raised beds. I've used "urbanite" (recycled concrete), ceramic tiles, composite plastic lumber, and treated lumber. I feel that treated lumber (made with materials safe for gardens) is the best choice. The beds are the easiest to construct and manage over time.

For a detailed description of materials and how-to directions, visit: <http://www.sunset.com/garden/backyard-projects/ultimate-raised-bed-how-to/view-all>. I used a version of this design but skipped the hardware cloth and used two 10-foot-long 4" by 6" boards for the sides and two 4-foot-long 4" by 6" boards for the ends. I also do not use irrigation, but my beds can be adapted easily to that modification in the future. This design includes PVC pipe curved into arches to provide structure for plastic or blankets for insulation when needed for those cold wintery January/February nights. Watch for upcoming announcements for the Neighborhood Tour of Gardens, November 15th, on the Indianhead Facebook page or on the Indianhead website. On this tour, you will see a variety of good examples of raised beds in the 'hood.

Hope this inspires you to go get your hands dirty and test the greenness of your thumbs! As always, check out UF IFAS Extension for gardening techniques, tips and troubleshooting!

## Tour of Gardens



On November 15th, from 2 pm - 4 pm, join us on a tour of neighborhood gardens and witness the variety of beds and plants that others are growing. More details will be available as the date approaches. Look for info in Grant's neighborhood emails, on Facebook and on the Indianhead-Lehigh website—ihlna.org. If you would like your garden to be on the tour, please contact Molly Jameson, [mjameson@ufl.edu](mailto:mjameson@ufl.edu). While you are welcome to visit the gardens at your own pace, if you would like to be part of a Bicycle Tour of Gardens, please contact [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com).

# *Ardesia Slayers: The Neighborhood Working Together*

By Judith Rainbrook



I had been watching the encroachment of coral ardesia in the Indianhead Greenway since arriving in Indianhead three years ago. The Greenway near Apakin originally had a variety of plants but

rapidly started to look the same all over—covered with coral ardesia. Then I read an article by Glenn Mayne in the Tallahassee Democrat about why coral ardesia is so invasive. Turns out nothing of significance eats it, nothing kills it, it produces hundreds of berries and these berries have a 97% germination rate—which means they ALL turn into new plants. The only way to get rid of it is to pull up the parent plant and all the hundreds of baby plants under it and then make sure their roots never touch soil again until they are stone-cold dead. It seemed like there was no hope. But then I heard that Glenn had almost single-handedly cleared coral ardesia from 50 acres of the Tallahassee Museum. I began to think there IS something we can do, so I put a note on Facebook to see if anyone else was interested in taking on a removal project in the Greenway.

Natasha Hartfield and Donald Kelly responded, and we formed the nucleus of an ardesia removal project that began in April of this year. Our first official removal attempt was scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to noon. We were fortunate to link up

with Eric Mason, Parks Management Specialist with the City of Tallahassee's Parks Division, who agreed to supply gloves and trash bags and a special trash pickup. Then we posted the plans on the Facebook page and posted fliers around the neighborhood and waited to see if anybody would show up. And they did! Over the two day period of "removal," 21 adults and numerous children showed up, including Glenn Mayne, who showed us his removal technique, and Eric Mason from the city, who not only supplied our tools and gloves and bags, but came and put in a full shift of plant removal.

Inspired by the strong response, we scheduled one more 2-day weekend session. All told, there were 24 people who participated in the two weekend removal efforts and two others came by for training so they could go back and deal with their own yards. These folks put in 77.5 hours in removal efforts and cleared off about a 500-yard stretch in the Greenway.

This fall, we will begin again. We have scheduled a work session the second Saturday of every month, starting on October 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 11 am. The City of Tallahassee will again supply tools, gloves and bags. More volunteers are needed. Please wear long pants, socks and closed shoes as poison ivy and ticks are a possibility. Also bring insect repellent and water. If you would like to be contacted with an email reminder, send me an email at [dragonpc@earthlink.net](mailto:dragonpc@earthlink.net). Together, we CAN make a difference!

## OFFICERS OF IHLNA

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At-Large: Mary Louise Bachman  
At-Large: Connie Bersok  
At-Large: Daphne Holden  
At-Large: Edward Reid  
At-Large: Sandra Neidert



# *The Time We Told the City Where to Put Their Holding Ponds*

By Daniel Thompson

At one time there were people in Tallahassee City Government who thought it was a good idea to put 10 acres of holding ponds in the green space along Indianhead Creek. This was around 1991 or 1992. The plan was to put a 3-acre holding pond near Hartsfield School and a 7-acre holding pond along the creek behind Optimist Park. The woods would have been wiped out, and chain link fences would have enclosed the ponds. The rationale, as explained by city officials, was that the City's stormwater computer model predicted flooding on Orange Avenue during heavy rain, from Indianhead Creek. This never happened, as far as I know, before or since the holding pond idea.

There were several public hearings and at least one walking tour of the site with city officials and a few county and city commissioners. The neighborhood association and many neighborhood residents were very involved and very concerned about losing 10 acres of forest to holding ponds. The city and county commissioners were also concerned but noncommittal. The city officials seemed to think that if they kept telling us what a great idea this was, and that 10 acres of holding ponds in exchange for 10 acres of forest was not something to be upset about, then we would eventually see it their way and become holding pond lovers too.

After a few weeks a public meeting was scheduled on a weeknight at Hartsfield Elementary School. As I recall, the auditorium (cafeteria) was full. The city officials explained again why the holding ponds were a great idea and that we could not escape the fate predicted by the computer model—flooding on Orange Avenue.

After the presentations, people in the audience stood and made comments. Things were civil but a little frosty since it was obvious that the crowd did not want holding ponds and the city did. After three or four people spoke, Mrs. Irene Stead stood up to speak. She looked to be in her 70s and appeared determined to have her say. She told us that when she and her

husband donated the land to the County they never intended for it to be used as the city was proposing. They donated the land with the understanding that it would be a park and not be developed. The city official on the stage had a microphone in his hand and said there was no deed restriction on the property to prevent them from building holding ponds, and since the city already owned the land there would be no cost to the city for the land. To me, and I think to the rest of the audience, this was a rude, disrespectful way to talk to the person who donated the land to the community. I thought things might be on the verge of getting ugly. At that point Steve Meisburg, a city commissioner at the time, walked from the back of the auditorium, stepped up on the stage, and took the microphone from the city official. I have to quote from memory here but as I recall he said something like this, "I speak for myself and I think I can speak for the other city commissioners, and I can tell you that we will never put holding ponds in that green space."

The crowd applauded with great enthusiasm, and the mood instantly went from ominous to jubilant. That was the last we heard of holding ponds in Indianhead Acres.

This is how I remember the events regarding the holding pond controversy. But it was over 20 years ago and I would be interested to know if others who were around at the time remember it more or less the same way.



Irene Stead (left) and Mrs. Fuller Warren at the Governor's mansion. Irene Stead was the wife of developer John Stead who developed Indianhead Acres and Irene is generally given credit for naming each street with a "nene," which is Creek language for trail.  
*State Archives of Florida*

# Invite Wildlife to a Natural "Bed and Breakfast"

By Sandy Beck

*Sandy Beck serves as education director with the St. Francis Wildlife Association. A local author and educator, she teaches about co-existing with the wildlife in our neighborhoods.*

A few years ago during a summer afternoon thunderstorm, a lightning bolt hit the tallest longleaf pine in our front yard. For the next two years, as the bark and branches fell away, a delightful assortment of birds - including chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches and woodpeckers - feasted on the wood-boring insects at our snag, the newest "drill and dine" in town. There were tiny downy woodpeckers, the always-impressive pileated woodpeckers, flashy red-headed woodpeckers and yellow-bellied sapsuckers who worked their way around the trunk in orderly rows. A pair of red-bellied woodpeckers excavated a cavity near the top of the snag and raised a family.

Nearly one-third of all forest-dwelling wildlife species depend upon dead trees for homes and food. Woodpeckers dig out the holes, but many other species - like kestrels, chickadees, bluebirds and owls - move in when the woodpeckers leave. These small cavities, and larger ones created when branches fall away, are also in great demand by snakes, lizards and mammals ranging from tiny flying squirrels to raccoons and opossums.

A few years later, with one spectacular crack and an earth-shaking thud, our snag finally toppled across the front yard. We sawed up the wood and added it to the brush pile at the back of our property that the cottontails, lizards and black racers find so inviting. All that remains now is a two-foot stump out of which a sweetgum has sprouted.

## How to help grateful dead (tree) lovers

- Resist your "tidy-up instinct" to dispose of dead or dying trees. Trees killed by natural means can remain standing for many years.
- If the tree poses a threat to your house or driveway, top it off leaving 10 feet or so for wildlife.
- Although a temporary solution, cavity nesters also covet nest boxes. For nest box plans, please visit <http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/refuge.html>.
- Open a wild B&B, and you are sure to make some fascinating new friends!



Most woodpeckers need dead trees to survive. They dig nest cavities into the soft wood and chow down on insects that decompose the wood. St. Francis Wildlife rescued, raised and released this handful of orphaned Red-bellied Woodpeckers. *Photo by Sandy Beck*



# The Joy of Keeping a Nature Journal

By Bridget N. Jones

In Indianhead and Lehigh, we are very fortunate to have natural beauty all around us. We see mature live oaks fringed with moss, long leaf pines, stout cedars, fifty-year-old shrubs (higher than some trees), dogwoods, sweetgums with their prickly gumballs, magnolias with flowers as big as our heads, maples, citrus trees and more. These plants create our lovely wooded landscapes, enchanting the nature lovers within the Nenes with their pretty shapes, varied textures, and their cool shade. Tucked into all the foliage, often beyond our sight, are the other residents of the neighborhood—the animals, birds, reptiles, insects and amphibians.

When we first bought our house, we hung a couple bird feeders. Keeping them stocked, we soon witnessed the variety of wild birds that come through our yard. We noticed opossums and tortoises too. These sightings inspired my family to designate a little notebook as our Nature Journal. We keep it on our screen porch and write in it frequently, documenting the various natural events and little visitors we encounter.

We usually write about wild creature sightings, but we also documented when we put in a chicken coop or expanded the vegetable garden. We might write to celebrate the first tomato of the season or the juiciest radishes we have ever grown.

Recently, sitting on the screen porch, I thumbed through our Journal. Certain entries made me laugh, like the praying mantis that hitched a ride into our house on our Christmas tree, or the first time I saw a hummingbird poop while sipping at our feeder.

I liked looking back at when the wrens built nests and raised families. I enjoyed reminiscing about a huge banana spider we often observed with both fascination and a shiver at her creepiness. I loved



reading about the pileated woodpecker pair who raised their babies in our pine snag. There were a lot of things in the journal I had forgotten about so I was glad we'd written them down.

My favorite part of reading our family's Nature Journal was when I became profoundly present to the vast amount of beauty and wonder in my yard. It is there at any time and all year round. Reading the journal filled me with love and gratitude! I encourage you to adopt this practice, too. It's fun to keep your eyes open to new discoveries; the more you look around, the more you'll find!

Bridget Noel Jones is a Licensed Massage Therapist, Kundalini Yoga Teacher, and the Author and Publisher of The Story of the Infinipede. She lives in Indianhead with her husband and their two daughters.







## *The Nene Teeny Library* by Emma Hanley, 8th grade

Have you noticed something new at Optimist Park? Maybe on your morning walk you have spotted what looked like a cute little brown and green box elevated by two wooden poles. If so, you have spotted Indianhead's new Little Free Library, which we are calling the Nene Teeny Library.

A Little Free Library is a community library with one rule - Take a book, Leave a Book. This means that when you want to take a book from this charming little library, it is yours forever- if you also donate a book to the library. This system keeps the flow of new books coming, and it makes sure we always have a fine, fresh supply. If you don't happen to have a book with you, and you want to get a book, it is okay to take a book and not leave one. Of course, later on, we would love it if you brought a book to the Nene Teeny Library, but no pressure. The Nene Teeny Library has two sections, Adult and Young Adults/Children. When you leave a book in the library, please put it in the correct section.



Laura Spears is the steward for the adult side of the library and I will serve that role for the youth side, where your donations of books are always welcome! Laura would like us to keep these things in mind when thinking of contributing books to the library: "books that are already moldy are better disposed of, as mold will spread to the other books. Also, please remember that this is a lending library, which means with limited space, we want to stock books that are likely to circulate. Non-fiction that is outdated or has incorrect information is better contributed to a used book seller -these have historical value but are less suitable for a library like this."



Thank you to Vikki Earley Lindamood, the chair of the Nene Teeny Library Committee, for all she has done to make this idea a reality. Thank you to the two men who designed and built the library, George Luke and Geoff Holden. Thanks to Joyce Gardner and her kids, who painted this beautiful library. Thank you to Laura Spears, who collected and stored books. Thank you to Terri Poore, who collected materials for the library and made announcements about it. Thank you to Steven Genovese who made a generous donation to the library. And most of all, thank you to the wonderful community of Indianhead for being so participative and open to all new ideas.

*Happy reading!*



## Re-Cap of Second Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run

by Jessica Kennett

Energized by the success of the first Nene Fest 5K, we kept calm and carried on planning and organizing for the next Nene Fest 5K which was held on May 9th 2015.

We had a great turn out for both races with 146 registrants, 50 volunteers, and 20 sponsors! A special thank you goes out to our Golden Luna Sponsor: Kevin Hattaway! We'd also like to thank our Silver Luna Sponsors: Vertigo Burger and Fries and Canopy Road Cafe. Because of the generosity and participation of these and many other sponsors and donors, we were able to raise \$2,793 for our neighborhood school, Hartsfield Elementary. The money will be used by Hartsfield teachers for classroom needs and field trips.

We added a new dimension to community support this year: neighbors were encouraged to give scholarships for student runners who would not otherwise be able to register for the race. We are grateful to the neighbors who gave for this initiative. Their generosity provided the funds for 30 student race registrations, some of which were unused and will be available for the 2016 Nene Fest 5K/Fun Run. We hope to launch this community initiative earlier next year in order to give us more time to match the funds with runners who can benefit from them.



We saw remarkable speed for this course this year! Chris Lake dominated the men's race with a time of 15:49. Geb Kiros ran in shortly later at 17:38, followed by Michael Kennett at 21:05. Paula O'Neill still holds the title for the women with a first place time of 22:28. Nancy Stedman took second at 23:00 and Sarah Monbarren came in third with a time of 23:57. Thanks to our local beekeepers, Michael Callan and Shelly Hatton, the top three males/females ages 13+ in the 5k walked away with a jar of Nene Honey as their sweet prize for a swift finish!

We were proud to raise money for our neighborhood school, and we were grateful for the participation of many teachers, parents, and students. They came to run, volunteer and cheer us on! Ms. Arnekua Singleton and Hartsfield's award-winning chorus performed beautifully at the park after the race.

**Mark your calendar now for the Third Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run! We look forward to seeing you bright and early on Saturday, April 30th, 2016.**

A CORNER DEVOTED TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

*Hartsfield Elementary*

### UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

#### Fall Carnival

**October 15th - 10:30 am to 2:00 pm**

Parents and their preschool or home-schooled children are welcome to attend. For a cost of \$7 at the door the day of, your child will receive unlimited games, a photo from the photo booth, a goodie bag and food (one of each: fruit, water, juice bar, slice of pizza and popcorn).

#### Veteran's Day Breakfast and Parade

**November 10th - 9:30 am**

All enlisted or retired veterans are invited to this event. Please RSVP to Judi McDowell at [mcdowellj@leonschools.net](mailto:mcdowellj@leonschools.net) or by phone at 850-488-7322.

#### Book Fair

**December 7th - 11th**

This is a great place for some holiday shopping. All proceeds from the book fair go to purchase additional books for Hartsfield's Media Center.

## Hartsfield Elementary

### *How You Can Help or Get Involved:*

Hartsfield is always in need of mentors for students in K - 5th grade. Volunteers to help in the classroom, the office, or at special events are also most welcome. Please contact Judi McDowell at [mcdowellj@leonschools.net](mailto:mcdowellj@leonschools.net) or 850-488-7322 to find the right fit for you.

Donations are also very appreciated; they help pay for activities and supplies that public funding does not cover. Last year we raised \$2000 through our Direct Donation Campaign which helped ensure that all Hartsfield students went on at least two field trips. We hope to surpass that amount this year and continue to dedicate these funds to such things as field trips and in-school learning experiences led by local science and cultural groups. The PTO also organizes other fundraising activities, but this campaign allows you to donate directly to Hartsfield, without buying or attending anything, and the school can keep 100% of the money received. Any and all amounts are welcome! You can make a check out to Hartsfield Elementary and drop it off at the school or contribute via the school website at <http://www.leonschools.net/hartsfield>. Click on the 'donate' button, on the right, halfway down the front page. Many thanks!

Hartsfield also welcomes donations in kind of new or gently used items for its Positive Behavior Support (PBS) store. Students who exhibit our HAWKS character traits receive 'high five' tickets. They visit the PBS store every Friday to 'spend' their tickets. Items they can purchase include pencils, erasers, small toys, clothing items, books, etc. The students even use the PBS store as a place to 'buy' gifts for their families for birthdays and holidays.

### *Hartsfield Gardens:*

#### *A Community Effort*

Last year, with a lot of help from Hartsfield families and community members (special thanks to neighbors Tom Ballentine, Geoff and Ben Brown, Ed Neuse, Sandy Neidert and the Holden-Schrock and Hanley families), we added 4 new beds to the existing two garden beds. The spring harvest was impressive

and the students got so much out of their gardening experience, like the pleasure of seeing their efforts bear fruit, an understanding of where their food comes from, and a taste for new vegetables. This year, Hartsfield is the proud recipient of a New Leaf Community Grant. We are so grateful to have the funds and community support to keep our gardens growing! In addition to using the gardens all year long, we plan to start an afterschool gardening club and host a harvest festival at the school. If you are interested in lending a hand with our school gardens, please contact Marie-Claire Leman at [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com) or 850-728-7514.

### **A FEW WORDS FROM OUR HARTSFIELD HAWKS:**

*"Hartsfield is a good school. Everyone is very welcoming."*  
-Tai Baldridge, 3rd grade

*"Math is good for you. It gives you knowledge. I like having math after recess because recess gets my brain ready for learning."* -Ingrid Hanley, 1st grade

*"I like that we have a nice teacher and that there are lots of people to make friends with."* -Alice Strom, 2nd grade

*"I like to play outside with my 1st grade friends Lavondrick, Ingrid and Jade. I also like playing and learning on the computer."* -Dylan Brown, 1st grade

*"I really like seeing my teachers every day. Ms. Howard is my favorite teacher; she is so funny and nice! Plus I really like going outside to play with my friends. My other favorite place to go is music because we sing and dance a lot and it's fun. Plus I really love when I see my brother around school."*  
-Talon Sasso, Kindergarten

*"My favorite thing about going to Hartsfield is that I get to ride my bike to school with my friends, and I love that our neighborhood is so cool to ride through. I really like that the teachers and people who work at the school are so nice and try to always make our school better. My favorite class is Mr. Harmon's music class; it is so awesome because I love music!"* -Ryder Sasso, 3rd grade

*"What I like about Hartsfield are the playgrounds. They are really fun. And I like the teachers because they are nice."*  
-Aster Frances-Templin, 2nd grade

If your child wants to share what they like most about attending Hartsfield, contact Marie-Claire Leman, [marieclaireleman@gmail.com](mailto:marieclaireleman@gmail.com), 850-728-7514.

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## Safety Tips

By Walter Liddell, Former Florida State Trooper

Indianhead Acres and Lehigh are relatively safe places to live and have been for the thirty-plus years for which we have been residents. With the Parkway on the north, Magnolia on the west, Orange on the south, and Blairstone on the east, we get plenty of through-traffic motoring down our streets. As a former state trooper who served for over 32 years, here are some tips for staying safe:

When out of town for more than a day or two:

- Stop paper delivery.
- Purchase some timers that turn your lights on and off automatically. These are available for a relatively cheap price at any box store. Set them to turn on and go off at differing times.
- Inform your neighbors that you are leaving. Most of us tell our neighbors we will be gone and ask them to "watch the place." If they happen to see someone running out our back door with a 52" flat screen TV, they should call Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) at 891-4200. Remember, if you see something suspicious, it probably is. Call TPD and have a marked unit check it out. That is what the police are there for: to keep us safe!

On another note, as the days get shorter remember to practice other safety habits:

- Wear reflective vest, shoes, flashlights etc. while running, jogging, walking the baby or dog on the streets, either in the morning or at night.
- Traffic and ear buds do not pair well. A former article in the INLNA newsletter, Walk against Traffic, Pedal with Traffic, highlighted the dangers of obscuring hearing while on the roads. I see a lot of folks walking near traffic using ear buds and not paying attention to their surroundings.
- Be careful not to use our green space at dark. Carry your cell phone and have 911 programmed into it in case of emergency.

Last bit of advice:

Decide Before You Drive. "Drive sober or get pulled over" (or worse) during the upcoming holidays.

**Stay Safe!**

## CALENDAR

**Saturday, October 10:**

**Coral Ardesia Removal Work Session**

**Optimist Park, 9 am - 11 am**

(group will meet the second Saturday of every month)

**Sunday, October 25: Halloween Party**

**Optimist Park, 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Sunday, November 1:**

**Turn your clocks back one hour ("fall back")**

**2nd Sunday of Each Month:**

**Potluck in the Park**

**Optimist Park, 4:30 pm**

In addition to the potluck dish to share, please bring your own utensils and perhaps a chair.

**November 8th potluck** will have free pony rides, sponsored by the Neighborhood Association.

**Sunday, November 15:**

**Tour of Neighborhood Gardens**

**2 pm - 4 pm**

Tour itinerary to be determined

**Friday, December 18:**

**Neighborhood Bicycle Tour of Lights**

Depart at 6:30 pm from Optimist Park

**April: Neighborhood Watch Meeting**

details to be announced

**Saturday, April 30, 2016:**

**8th Annual Nene Fest**

**Optimist Park**

**Saturday, April 30, 2016:**

**3rd Annual Nene Fest 5K and Fun Run**

**Optimist Park (morning of Nene Fest)**

Neighborhood calendar also available online at ILHNA.org